

FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 26, 2014

Mid Edition No 631

POLICE »

Candid commissioner is happy to talk shop

PCC Ann Barnes answers questions about her role and the police... as asked by you

EDUCATION »

Testing times for appealing parents

How out-of-county pupils take our children's grammar places

HEALTH »

Are we ready for threat of Ebola?

With major routes into UK on our doorstep, is enough being done?

ENERGY »

An explosive way to end

Demolition brings down curtain on controversial power station

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Our grammar schools should be for our pupils

YOU may or may not like the grammar-school system, but it's arguably one of the most defining factors about living in Kent.

Bastion of educational tradition or a lumbering corner of the country that can't address a sharper, brighter, more equitable future... either way, the county is one of very few places in the UK to keep the selective process.

The provision of education takes up no small amount of our money through taxation. We help fund our grammar schools, whether we like them or not, whatever our personal beliefs.

If you don't like it, the argument could run, go and live somewhere else.

It would be a crass argument, but it comes to mind when you consider the plight of parents whose children miss out on a grammar school place because it



By David Mairs

has gone to someone who doesn't even live here.

To say it would stick in the craw of those affected would be an understatement of immense proportions.

They helped pay for a system on which their children are now losing out to someone whose parents didn't.

Perhaps those grammar schools that do take pupils from out of county can be cut some slack. They do, after all, have to exist in a world

in which results are everything.

However, would a handful of slightly less academic – but local – children really send them tumbling down the ratings?

It's unlikely... and the determination to push an establishment ever higher up whatever latest table has been dreamed up by the Government should be challenged.

Kent schools should be for Kent children.

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Be smart and get the flu vaccine, campaign urges

By Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

PEOPLE across Kent are being encouraged to get the flu vaccine in a county council campaign that aims to shatter a series of myths relating to it.

Those most at risk include young children, older people and pregnant women.

Statistics from 2013 show that across Kent and Medway only 34 per cent of pregnant women, 40 per cent of young children and just half of those with medical conditions had taken the vaccine.

Kent County Council public health consultant Faiza Khan said: "Flu can increase the risk of developing more serious illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia, or can make existing conditions worse.

"In the worst cases, seasonal flu can result in a stay in hospital and it can even be fatal.

"Younger girls and boys can get the vaccine as a nasal spray rather than a jab, but having one can make a huge difference."

Leading the campaign is a team of public-health workers including mother-to-be Helen Buttivant from Sevenoaks.



Ms Buttivant said: "If you balance the adverse effects of the jab with the potential impact on my baby if I get the flu, it's a no-brainer.

"For my own health, as well as that of my baby, I want a smooth pregnancy and the benefits far outweigh any perceived risks.

"I've also got lots of young and elderly relatives, so I would like to take out the risk of me passing it on."

Graham Gibbens, Cabinet member for adult social care and public health, added: "We want to break down some of the misunderstandings and

misconceptions about the vaccine so that people feel confident to come forward and get themselves the best defence against flu this winter."

For more information, contact your local GP or visit www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health

Praying for restoration as churches join list of 'at risk' historic sites

A NUMBER of sites across the county have been added to English Heritage's At Risk register this week – among them a host of places of worship.

The regularly-updated list, compiled by the national heritage organisation, identifies sites at risk of being lost through neglect, decay or inappropriate development.

Across Kent, 20 places of worship are now deemed to be at risk. 13 of which are Grade I-listed buildings.

They include the church of St Dunstan in Cranbrook, which has suffered from vandalism and is in need of repairs to its tower.

Other sites include the Grade II-listed Church of St Peter and St Paul in Ospringe, which is slowly decaying and suffers from damp caused by slipped tiles and ivy growth.

In addition, the Grade II-listed Church of St Peter, also known as the Fisherman's Church in Folkestone, is included because of concerns over its deteriorating stonework and roof.

There is some brighter news, however.

Three buildings previously on the register have now been removed after they were restored.

They are the Grade I-listed churches of St Mary in Sundridge and St Mary in Westwell and the Grade II-listed St Mary and St Eanswythe church in Folkestone.

A prehistoric site near College Farm, Birchington, has also been removed after the farmer agreed to change the method of ploughing across the area.

Another archaeological site making good progress is Baker's Hole Palaeolithic site at Ebbsfleet, where stone tools, mammoth teeth and other fossils dating back 250,000 years have been discovered after it was added last year.

Dr Andy Brown, planning and conservation director for English Heritage in the South East, said: "We've seen great progress this year, but there's still a lot for us and our partners to do in order to preserve the historic buildings and places in the South East for future generations."

Man is charged with murder after body found at station

A MAN has been charged with murder after the discovery of a body in Headcorn on Wednesday.

Police were called to Church Walk shortly before 9am to reports that a dead man had been found.

He has been formally identified as Trevor Hillman, 57, of Headcorn.

Ruslan Pictorov, 40, of no fixed address, was arrested in London later that day.

He was charged with murder

and was due to appear at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on Friday.

A second man who was arrested has been released without charge.

Senior investigating officer DI Lee Whitehead, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, said: "I would like to thank the Headcorn community for their assistance with this investigation."

Family pay tribute to mother found in burning vehicle

A FAMILY have paid tribute to a young woman whose body was found in a burning vehicle.

The body of mother-of-four Donna Eastwood, 26, was found in the vehicle in Rowhill Road, Wilmington, early on Saturday last week.

Joshua Caird, 26, of Almond Road, Stone, has been charged with Ms Eastwood's murder and remains in police custody.

A trial date has been set for February 16.

Ms Eastwood's family issued the following statement: "Donna was a loving mother and will always be mummy and daddy's little angel.

"All her family loved her and life will not be the same without her.

"Thank you to all her friends for their kind words."



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Miliband follows PM into battle for Medway seat

LABOUR leader Ed Miliband was the latest major political figure to visit Rochester and Strood ahead of next month's by-election.

The vote was sparked when Tory MP Mark Reckless quit the party to join Ukip. He resigned his seat and is now standing as the Ukip candidate.

The latest opinion poll put Ukip 13 points ahead of the Conservatives on 43 per cent, with Labour on 21 and

the Greens and Lib Dems both on 3 per cent.

On Thursday, Mr Miliband followed in the footsteps of Prime Minister David Cameron, who made a visit last week and is expected to make the trip again prior to the November 20 election.

On Thursday evening, the Tories selected Kelly Tolhurst as their candidate.

For the latest on the build-up to the vote, see inside.



FIVE YEARS: Wayne Albone

Jail for man who robbed newsagents

AN ARMED robber who raided a Sittingbourne newsagents has been jailed for five years.

Wayne Albone, 27, of College Road, Sittingbourne, threw a till at the shopkeeper and thrust a knife towards him before stealing a large quantity of cash on December 12, 2013.

However, an off-duty police officer witnessed him running away from the scene and noted down the registration number of the car in which he escaped, leading to Albone's arrest.

He was found guilty of robbery at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday and sentenced to five years' jail.

The court heard how Albone, who was wearing a scarf around his face to conceal his identity, entered Chaucer News in Chaucer Road at about 6.40pm on the day of the robbery.

After ushering two customers to the rear of the store, he threw a till at the shopkeeper and attempted to stab him with a knife before escaping with hundreds of pounds in cash.

Officers arrested Albone the next day, discovering £480 in his jogging bottoms and £90 hidden in his socks.

He also had a small cut to his left wrist, which CCTV footage showed was inflicted by the shopkeeper in his attempts to defend himself.

Controlled blasts begin process of demolishing industrial landmark

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WORK on demolishing one of the county's major landmarks got under way on Thursday night in a series of small controlled explosions.

They sent part of the Kingsnorth power station on the Hoo peninsula crashing to the ground.

Built between 1963 and 1973, it has been a clear sight on the Medway horizon ever since.

But after being shut in 2013 when its oil- and coal-fired generators reached the end of their economic life, owner E.ON has started the next stage of pulling it all down.

On Thursday evening, the blasts knocked down five small buildings and structures, which were part of the system to move coal from the stockpile towards the heart of the station. The tallest was 41 metres.

That main part of the power station still remains and that will be demolished over the next two years.

The work to dismantle the 2,000-



megawatt station began in April.

Since then, E.ON and its primary contractor, Brown and Mason, have been preparing the site for the on-going demolition work and have already removed some of the smaller structures, including the fuel oil tanks and all of the coal conveyor systems, through non-explosive methods.

Neil Wright, civil team leader at E.ON, is leading the project to take down the station, once a major employer in Medway. He explained: "We had worked with the local police and the council to ensure this process was conducted safely, efficiently and with minimal disruption

to local communities and the environment.

"As we've demonstrated in the past, we work closely with people who live in the local area to ensure that they're fully informed of the demolition process."

Like many other power stations around the country, the EU's Large Combustion Plant Directive required Kingsnorth to close after generating for 20,000 hours from January 1, 2008, or before the end of 2015, whichever came first.

The plant is used to the headlines, having been targeted by Greenpeace campaigners in 2007.

Apprentice hopeful survives Lord Sugar

LAWYER Felipe Alviar-Baquero's dream of becoming Lord Sugar's next business partner continued after he survived another round on BBC TV hit The Apprentice.

The 33-year-old from Kings Hill was part of the winning team in Wednesday night's show, while a further two of his competitors were told "you're fired" by the businessman.

Viewers watched as the two competing teams on the show battled to make the most money in a task that required them to create candles to sell to retailers, hotels and the public.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday last week, the father-of-two, who is sworn to strict secrecy on the outcome of the show and is forbidden to reveal how far he progresses or what life on the show was like until it has finished, said: "For me the programme is inspirational. It is one of few programmes that give a real sense of business."

The show continues on Wednesday night at 9pm on BBC1.

Crackdown prompts town dispersal zone

THE latest dispersal zone has been thrown up around an area of Westgate-on-Sea in a bid to crack down on antisocial behaviour.

The 'designated dispersal order' came into force on Monday and runs until January 19, 2015. It allows police to move on any group of people it feels may be causing trouble, with a threat of jail or heavy fine if they return within 24 hours.

Officers can disperse groups congregating in the new designated area, which includes Station Road and the train station and Ethelbert Square.

Reports had suggested young people have been gathering in Station Road, shouting, swearing, littering, threatening violence and carrying out criminal damage.

Chief Inspector Simon Thompson said:

"Antisocial behaviour carried out by a small but persistent group in a community may not sound serious, but it can have a detrimental effect on people living and working in the area and that is not acceptable."

Rail rolling stock call by MP after meeting

MP HELEN Grant met train chiefs at Southeastern this week to demand reassurances from the company over its preparations ahead of the upcoming winter.

Commuters are often left fuming due to a lack of communication and delayed or cancelled services. Mrs Grant, Tory MP for Maidstone and The Weald met Richard Dean, Southeastern's director of trains.

She confirmed she will also be calling on the transport minister to support more rolling stock to provide 7,500 more seats on the Maidstone line.

The MP said: "Southeastern told me there will be 100 new customer assistants at stations to provide the most up-to-date information to commuters.

"They will be adding an extra service at peak time to and from London Blackfriars – good news for City workers – and as of January a later service leaving London after midnight will take constituents home after a night out."

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

High Court to rule on Heritage Quarter plan

A COURT hearing starts on Thursday to decide the fate of the £120 million Heritage Quarter development in the heart of Gravesend.

On one side is the council and developers, who claim it will be an ideal mix of quality apartments, restaurants, large hotel and underground car parks to reduce

traffic. It is estimated that 900 jobs will be created.

And on the other is campaign group Urban Gravesham, which says an agreement will allow the developers to build just the most profitable aspects and ignore the community projects.

Now the whole matter is heading for the High Court in London, where



a judge will hear both sides over almost two days of testimony. It is due to run from Thursday to Friday.

Gravesham Borough Council says it will not comment until after the case.

Your input needed to fix police priorities for 2015

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes is appealing for the views of residents on policing priorities in the county.

Updated annually, the police and crime plan establishes the priorities that Kent Police then seeks to deliver.

Mrs Barnes said: "I have an obligation to review the plan

every year, so please take a moment to think about it and use this opportunity to have your say."

Additionally, Mrs Barnes will be hosting a Policing in Kent conference on November 21 at Kent Police Training School, Maidstone. See www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/plan for more details or call 01622 677055.

...also

Turner film rolled out

THE film Mr Turner, focusing on the life of artist JMW Turner, is released on Friday, with several scenes shot in Kent.

Three days were spent filming in the county, at Stangate Creek on the River Medway and at Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Wheelchair rugby clash

WHEELCHAIR rugby's newest club, Canterbury, is hosting a demonstration game at Lifestyle Fitness in the city (CT2 8QA) on November 2. Events start midday.

The match will feature players from London and Woodbridge, with GB Paralympian Jonny Coggan the star turn.

Animal home party time

THE week ahead will be one of celebration for the Brands Hatch site of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, which is marking its 15th anniversary this month.

There will be events throughout the week and all are welcome. Phone 0843 509 4444 or visit www.battersea.org.uk.

M20 overnight closure

THE London-bound carriageway of the M20 will continue to be closed overnight (8pm-6am) between junctions 9 and 8 until Friday (October 31) for retexturing work. A diversion will be in place via the A20.

There will be a 50mph speed limit on the M20 coastbound from tomorrow (Monday).



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Bluebird Care

develops '24 hr Live-in Care' offering!

Bluebird Care's offices in Kent are challenging conventional thinking about later life care with their new 24/7 Live-in Care service.

The offices have firmly established themselves in the area by providing high quality private day care visits and becoming a preferred service for over a 1,000 local families throughout the area.

Bluebird Care offers a comprehensive Live-in Care service, providing Personal Assistants to live round the clock in the homes of vulnerable customers - permitting an extended period of living at home.

Sarah Taylor of Bluebird Care, who co-ordinates the service says: "Live in Care provides a bridge between the time when independent living can be achieved with assistance from visiting carers and the time when residential care is unavoidable."

It used to be the case that once day care became insufficient the only alternative was residential care. With all the bad publicity that everyone sees, this is sometimes not a popular choice for customers. The Bluebird Care Live-in Care service provides a really suitable alternative for many people who would previously have been reluctant residential home dwellers.

Sarah says: "Personal Assistants are recruited locally from the South East of the UK and we do criminal record checks on all our new Personal Assistants and take professional references, so we know who we're taking on. We provide them with thorough training in the workplace and we then visit them frequently during their assignments to make sure customers are happy and that the service is running smoothly."

The service benefits from having a back-up facility with the wider Bluebird Care network

(which has more than 170 offices UK wide) so that in the event that a Personal Assistant has to be withdrawn for any reason (say because of illness, or to deal with a crisis in their own families) there will be access to a reliable source of good substitutes at short notice, if necessary

"The round the clock service has proved to be popular with customers. We have had several customers of our day visit service who have trialled Live-in Care as an alternative to residential care and have made the trial permanent" said Sarah.

The costs are similar but the advantages of "staying home" and maintaining local social networks can make Live-in care an attractive option. The presence of the local Bluebird Care office is a key element to the appeal of the service. Our local offices provide the staff for the supervision process and also the back office resources necessary to comply with employment regulation.

"The Taxman" makes it clear that round the clock Personal Assistants cannot be self-employed. They are either the employee of an agency, or the employee of the person receiving the care. But vulnerable customers rarely want the hassle of being employers, and nor do they want to run the risks of personal accident claims or unpaid taxes - possible if things aren't done properly. If Bluebird Care manage the service then nobody needs to lose sleep about all that!

With places in top quality residential care in short supply, many families are currently thinking hard about how their senior members can be helped to remain in their homes - which is what most of them want. It seems that Bluebird Care may have some of the answers!

Sarah Taylor can be reached at sarahataylor@bluebirdcare.co.uk or please feel free to call your local office for more information:



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'FROM LIVING IN A CARE HOME BACK TO LIVING IN HER OWN HOME!'

Joan has lived in her own home since she was 14. She has always been independent and likes her routine. A few years ago, Joan suffered some ill health and was admitted to hospital. When it came to discharge, Joan was told that she needed help and so she went into various Nursing Homes before she decided she wanted to move back home....

Joan says, "The people in these homes had dementia and so 'I didn't fit in'. I was having to wait for people to help me with my personal care. I had to eat the food they cooked and no one really had the time to keep me company. I really wanted to come home! I'm so used to my own home because I know where everything is and can easily get to what I need. I've always loved reading, writing and needle work but now my hands hurt".

"My Social Service Case Manager provided me with a list of companies for me to choose from if I wanted 'Care at Home'. I interviewed with three different companies and settled with Bluebird Care as they were close to home and seemed to be the friendliest. I met with Graz in my own home and she was very pleasant and efficient and she put the service into place very quickly. I've had carers from different backgrounds and of different ages. "I don't think caring for someone is easy. I don't think I'd stay with an old woman! (Laughs). We've adjusted very quickly to each other and now I know them, I like having the carers in my own home".

"My carers know my routine and I find it beneficial having live-in carers. You have the upper hand in your own home and I'm still independent. I now get 1-2-1 care and everyone looks after my needs. At this stage in my life that's very important to me."





MOVIE MAGIC: Response so far to London Paramount park on the Swanscombe Peninsula has been good and it is hoped, if planning permission is given, the project will be completed by 2020

£2 billion theme park ‘will be Europe’s best’

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

SENIOR figures behind the planned £2 billion London Paramount park in north Kent this week gave a tantalising glimpse of what it hopes will become “Europe’s best entertainment destination”. And it promises to inject “some of the fizz” of the project into a series of public meetings forming the latest stage of a comprehensive series of public consultations into the development.

They will give the public the chance to see the outline plans for the scheme, gain a sense of its scale and see the lengthy procedure it has to follow to secure planning permission.

But the company spearheading the proposals – London Resort Holdings Company – insists the response so far to the plans have been widely embraced at all levels.

And it’s not difficult to see why.

The project, which will deliver a theme park and major entertainment hub – boasting concert venues, exhibition space and hotels comprising 5,000 rooms – is expected to create 27,000 jobs.

Some 17,000 staff will be directly employed on the site, with the remainder created through connected businesses and the supply chain.

It will be built on the site of an abandoned former cement works on the Swanscombe Peninsula and be another cog in an area which already has the giant retail complex Bluewater and will soon have a 15,000-home garden city built on land near-

by. In short, it will turn the area into a honeypot for employment opportunities and tourism.

But the process to its creation is a complicated one.

The main financier behind the project at this stage is the Kuwaiti European Holding Company (KEH) – an investment firm established in 2008 and bankrolled by the Al-Humaidi family, a wealthy merchant family in Kuwait.

It is continuing to attract other investors into the project.

Certainly the investment will be enormous. Not only will it cost £2bn to create but it has vowed to constantly reinvest in theme park rides and marketing over the years following its opening to keep the park fresh and the visitors flooding in.

It will include creating special access roads linking to the A2 and transport methods linking the park with the Ebbsfleet International station, allowing high-speed access for visitors from Europe using Eurostar.

It also hopes to emulate the success of the O2 Arena in Greenwich which sees some 6 per cent of its visitors use Clipper services on the Thames arrive down the river; from Westminster to the peninsula it should take just 45 minutes. Links are also being examined from the Essex coast.

It hopes much of the construction traffic would be either via the river or on the dedicated access roads.

Now, however, the focus is on the planning process.

Designated in May this year a ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project’, it was named as the first to benefit from the system, which means the decision over its progress is

made directly by the Secretary of State rather than through traditional local channels.

Initial public meetings earlier this year – designed to identify how local residents wanted to be consulted going forward – attracted more than 2,000 visitors.

Now a series of events is going to take place as pace picks up ahead of submission of a planning application next August.

If all goes to plan, the park should be open by Easter 2020 – slightly later than originally planned but in order to ensure the planning process has sufficient time to meet required guidelines.

Fenlon Dunphy, vice CEO of UK projects at KEH, explained: “Easter is a better time to launch this sort of project. It is the start of the season and, to be honest, gives us the breathing room we needed to ensure the planning process and construction goes smoothly.

“This is a rigorous process and one which has meant we have had to go the extra mile from day one.

“Consultation is key to the process.

“The feedback we received from the public events in the summer has been instrumental in shaping how we run our next stage of consultation.

“With events across numerous venues in the area in November, and further events planned next year, we hope to speak to as many local people as possible.

“We are delighted that we are now at a stage to share exciting information about the proposals and we hope local people can come along to see our emerging masterplan and share their views with the team.”

The consultation process will see public events take place at the following destinations...

- | | |
|--|---|
| November 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ British Legion Greenhithe
London Road, Greenhithe
DA9 9EJ
11am-2pm■ Eastgate
141 Springhead Parkway,
Northfleet DA11 8AD
4pm-7.30pm | November 11 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Bluewater
(Opposite Lower Winter Garden food court entrance)
Greenhithe DA9 9ST
10am-9pm |
| November 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Northfleet School for Girls
Hall Road, Northfleet DA11 8AQ
4pm-8pm | November 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Thurrock Civic Hall
Blackshots Lane, Grays RM16 2JU
2pm-6pm |
| November 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Dartford Council Offices
Civic Centre, Home Gardens,
Dartford DA1 1DR
3.30pm-7.30pm | November 13 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ The Woodville
Civic Centre, Windmill Street,
Gravesend DA12 1AU
4pm-8pm |
| November 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Swanscombe Leisure Centre
Craylands Lane, Swanscombe
DA10 0LP
2pm-5pm | November 14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ St Botolphs Church Hall
The Hill, Northfleet DA11 9EU
3.30pm-7.30pm |
| November 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Hazlitt Arts Centre (The Exchange Studio)
Earl Street, Maidstone ME14 1PS
2pm-6pm | November 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Ebbsfleet United FC
(ticket-holders only)
Stonebridge Road, Northfleet
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IF you're not particularly interested in politics, the first time you know the names of your constituency candidates in a general election might be when you turn up to vote on polling day.

But for next month's Rochester and Strood by-election, the local Conservatives have been trying to change that – by inviting every eligible voter in the constituency to help them choose their candidate.

Known as an open primary, this method of selection is widely used in the US but is relatively new here, having been used just a couple of times.

Rochester Tories have used the postal primary method – with voters invited to choose between short-listed candidates Kelly Tolhurst and Anna Firth in a postal ballot.

Andrew Mackness, chairman of Rochester and Strood Conservatives, is a strong supporter of the method.

"We wanted to give everyone in the constituency – not just Conservatives, but everyone of every political persuasion – the opportunity to select someone they feel is truly representative of the constituency," he said.

"It's an opportunity for the candidates to gain exposure, meet people and listen to them – far more than if we had not followed the process.

"Hundreds of people on the streets have been meeting them.

"The reception has been very positive and the public meeting with the two candidates last week was very well attended.

"We are getting lots of support from traditional Labour voters, who are saying they are going to vote Conservative for the first time to keep Ukup out – that is a very strong message."

Supporters of the system argue that it helps to increase engagement in politics and leads to a better calibre of candidate – as they have to win approval from the public, not just party members.

Mr Mackness agrees.

"That can be seen by how hard both candidates are working," he said.

"We had significantly more applications for the candidacy than we would normally have, although I can't say how many.

"It's a very popular process and both the candidates who were short-listed would make exceptional MPs."

However, John Fitzgibbon, lecturer in politics and international relations at Canterbury Christ Church University, denounced the idea as "stupid".

He says that with disengagement with politics at epic levels – turnout at general elections has not risen above 66 per cent since 1997 – it is a feeble attempt to tackle a huge problem.

"It's like your head has been cut off and you're getting a plaster. It's just so wrong," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"The problem is people don't like the entire political system. They don't like Westminster and feel it is too detached. They are angry and embittered for various reasons.

"This is not the thing to re-engage people. They don't vote anyway, so why would they turn up to do more voting?"

Certainly at the primary to select the Conservative candidate for the Clacton by-election last month, the turnout was less than overwhelming; out of 67,000 eligible voters, just 240 chose to take part.

Although primaries in America attract more participation, Dr Fitzgib-



Primary voting: a gimmick or the future for UK politics?

bon says they can often be counter-productive as the small numbers of people voting made it easy for extremists to hijack the outcome.

He gave the example of Republican Christine O'Donnell, who unexpectedly defeated former Delaware governor Michael Castle in a primary.

Her views, he says, appealed to a section of right-wing voters who didn't represent the general public.

"She ticked all their boxes on stuff that's way to the extreme of most people. But at the general election people thought she was too crazy," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

"Yes, it's more democratic, but that is not necessarily a good thing, because people don't care. The primary system gives us crazy people, as smaller groups of people get to choose who runs. It's more open to manipulation, as if only 200 people turn up to vote, all you need to do is get a hundred of your mates down.

"It gets people who are hyper-motivated and unless you subscribe to their views you get voted out.

"Party members, on the other hand, are thinking about what's in the best interests of the party.

"The Tories have tried it before, in Brighton, and around 200 anarchists came in and tried to take it over."

And the ballots could equally be hijacked by supporters of other parties who purposely voted for the worst candidate.

Mr Mackness, however, said he was not worried. "We haven't got any idiot or extreme candidates," he said.

"This is not the US – this is Rochester and Strood, which is steeped in

history and democracy. We have a wonderful MP in Totnes in Sarah Wollaston, which shows primaries do work. She is very much appreciated by the local population."

But Dr Fitzgibbon says our political system needs much deeper reform.



“ There would be those who would query whether it's the best process when you have a limited amount of time. Does it add anything? Probably not ”

Vince Maple, Medway Labour leader on Tories' primary vote

"The system's all wrong. The people who put themselves up for election are the same people all the time – white middle-class guys picking other white middle-class guys," he said.

"We need an entire package of reforms, not this gimmicky crap that no one understands."

Medway Labour leader Vince Maple said his party was looking into the use of open primaries as part of wider efforts to engage people more.

The party is setting up a registered supporters' scheme for people who want to pledge their allegiance but don't want to become members – and they will have a say in choosing candidates for the 2020 General Election.

But he said he was not sure how valuable an open primary was in a by-election.

"There would be those who would query whether it's the best process when you have a limited amount of time," he said.

"Does it add anything? Probably not. If less than 1 per cent of the electorate are voting, I don't think it is that representative.

"And most of the media were shut out of the public meeting with the two Tory candidates – it's the most closed open primary I've ever heard of."

He said parties should be making an effort to engage people in every aspect of politics.

"We [Labour] are considering using open primaries for the London mayoral elections, as that is very much about an individual, perhaps

more than an MP or councillor," Cllr Maple said.

"In Medway we have done the Medway survey, where we asked people to help us form our policies, whereas 15 or 20 years ago policy would have been made by the party membership.

"That's probably more important than a primary as it allows people to be involved in shaping their communities."

While no one expected the Tories to magic a candidate out of the air as soon as Mark Reckless stood down as MP, the speed, or otherwise, with which they have made their selection has led to accusations of, as Dr Fitzgibbon puts it, "faffing about".

By the time Ms Tolhurst was chosen as the party's candidate on Thursday night, almost four weeks had passed since Mr Reckless left his post – and there are now less than four weeks until the by-election.

"There has to be groundwork. They should have just picked a candidate and blitzed it," Dr Fitzgibbon said.

Cllr Maple agreed. "They could have selected someone a lot quicker," he said.

"Our candidate, Naushabah Khan, has been campaigning for almost a year. When we speak to people on the doorstep, they really value the fact that she is not someone who has been chosen last minute."

But Mr Mackness rejected suggestions that the party had wasted time.

"I think we are a very professional and organised political party," he said.

"We have been out campaigning very hard."

More grammar places going to pupils from out of county

Sarah Linney reports on the growing problem of children who just fall short in the Kent Test but stand no chance of reaching their chosen school on appeal

IMAGINE, as a 10-year-old child, having worked as hard as you can to get into grammar school, then not quite passing the exam that would secure your place.

Imagine appealing – you're clever enough, after all, but your mind just went blank on the day – and still missing out.

Then imagine discovering the reason you can't get into your local grammar school is because the place you may well have won on appeal has gone to another child... who doesn't even live in the county.

This is not a new tale.

For years, children in west Kent have had to fight their Sussex counterparts for places – with schools even as far east as Ashford taking pupils from the neighbouring county.

But, according to a Kent education consultant, the problem is even worse in north-west Kent, with pupils in Dartford and Gravesham facing intense competition for places from children in neighbouring London boroughs.

Those children can sit the Kent Test or the Medway Test – the exam taken at the start of the final year of primary school to help determine which secondary school a pupil will move on to – at testing sessions here.

Peter Read says the problem is worsening to the point where children who have not passed the all-important test stand next to no chance of getting in on appeal, such is the scramble for places.

"I am very concerned that children of grammar-school ability in north-west Kent can't secure places in the appeal process because children are coming down from London and crowding them out," said Mr Read, who advises parents on school admissions and appeals through his consultancy Kent Independent Education Advice.

"Across Kent, about 35 per cent of grammar school appeals are successful

"In Ashford, if you appeal, you stand a chance of getting in. In west Kent, not many will get through, but some will. But in north-west Kent, your chances are negligible, whatever the reasons, particularly if you're a boy.

"At the moment it's just about hanging together, but it has been worse there than in west Kent for years and it's getting worse because people in London are becoming more and more aware of Kent grammar school places.

"I regret very much that schools are able to go chasing high scorers at the expense of local children."

As the problem worsens, the effects

are spreading throughout the county, Mr Read says.

"Gravesend wasn't suffering from this problem, and now it is," he said.

"There are London children trying to go to Medway grammar schools. I suspect there will be London children arriving in Chatham and it has been suggested to me that there will be some in Sittingbourne.

"Borderline candidates are now looking at schools in Medway and Maidstone."

One could argue, of course, that grammar schools are intended for academic children – and that therefore those who are most academic, at least as assessed by the Kent or Medway Test, should win places over and above those who live nearer.

"The Kent Test is not a perfect system and never has been," Mr Read said.

"There are a lot of children who miss it by one or two marks, who have a bad day.

"There are families being highly distressed by this as they discover that the work their child has done to earn a grammar school place is going to waste – when the child is clearly of grammar-school ability.

"I don't think it is fair."

Of course, with schools now judged largely by their position in the league tables – in other words, by exam results – no one can really blame those schools that choose to give priority to the most promising pupils.

And, with most schools now in charge of their own admissions policy, Kent County Council is largely powerless to do anything about the situation.

"We have a responsibility to make sure Kent children have access to Kent schools," Roger Gough, cabinet member for education, told Kent on Sunday. "But although it would be wrong to say we have no influence – discussions go on – most schools are their own admissions authority, certainly among secondaries.

“The Kent Test is not a perfect system and never has been. There are a lot of children who miss it by one or two marks, who have a bad day.”

Peter Read,
from Kent Independent Education



BORDER CONTROL: Roger Gough acknowledges KCC's responsibility to county's children but Peter Read, right, says present system is simply unfair

"You can have three ways of thinking about grammar selection. You can have a big preference for those who live in a given area and passed the Kent Test; you can do it on the basis of distance, which tends to favour Kent students but there may be areas outside the county that are closer to you than other parts of Kent; or you can do it on the basis of Kent Test scores.

"In practice a lot of admissions criteria are a mixture of those three. And the number of people from outside Kent taking and passing the Kent Test has increased in recent years."

He said the council encouraged schools not to sideline Kent pupils but could not stop them admitting children from outside the county.

"Our focus is on ensuring that Kent pupils get the right education for them. We want to ensure that any Kent child who passes the Kent Test is able to access a grammar school place and that there are admissions criteria which support that," Cllr Gough said.

"All of what we do in our discussions with schools is to encourage them in that direction, but we can't do any more than encourage and we can't say you must just take Kent children.

"You could have a situation where

a school chiefly admits children on the basis of preferred parishes but leaves aside a certain number of places for very high-performing pupils wherever they come from. That does mean there are some places that don't necessarily go to Kent children.

"I don't think we can be absolutely hard and fast. To a certain extent schools may well focus some of their ethos on achieving very high academic standards and draw from a slightly wider area."

So should a Kent child who has not passed the Kent Test, albeit by a narrow margin, be given preference on appeal over a child from outside the county who has?

"There will be those to whom the result on the day doesn't do justice. That's what the appeals panel is for," Cllr Gough said.

"And sometimes schools will go over PAN [published admission number, or the maximum number of pupils they had planned to take], so it is not always a choice in the way you describe.

"But I don't think we would in general be in favour of a situation where we were getting Kent kids into those schools if they haven't passed the test."

Headache for head-teacher

GRAVESEND Grammar School, which takes boys, admits pupils who have passed the Kent Test based purely on their distance from the school, with what head-teacher Geoff Wybar described as a "marginal preference" for students from within the borough.

"We want to serve the local community and to be the grammar school for Gravesham," Mr Wybar said.

"It's important if you have a lot of children who don't come from the top socio-economic classes. It's their way out.

"We expanded the numbers we were taking because we weren't meeting the full needs of local students. We wanted to make sure we could serve students in Hartley and New Ash Green who were getting squeezed out by distance criteria but didn't have a natural grammar school.

"However, what other schools do with their admissions criteria is up to them. I wouldn't criticise anyone who wants to run a system based on scores – in some ways it's a very sensible way of doing it."

But, he said, the decision on which children were admitted on appeal was down to an independent panel – over which the school had no control.

"If you don't fill up, the panels are inclined to give you people who maybe come from further away. Out of our intake last year of 180, around four came from outside Kent," Mr Wybar said.



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From crime stats to street lights going out, our PCC is happy to talk

Ann Barnes, the county's Police and Crime Commissioner, has not always enjoyed a positive press. However, she is not one to duck an issue and here answers questions from you, our readers

KENT Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes has not had an easy time of late.

Currently facing an investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission following a car crash she was involved in in Dartford last month, the memory of an embarrassing Channel 4 documentary earlier this year struggles to fade.

In short, she's had better times in office. Yet she insists it remains 'business as usual' with a packed calendar of events and issues to oversee.

Her role involves holding the Chief Constable of Kent Police to account and overseeing budgets. She has no say in operational matters - that is purely for the Chief Constable to co-ordinate - but her role is significant.

It is also very public.

Having replaced the former police authority which acted as a quiet watchdog, the PCC role is designed to be a prominent face for the public to use as a key point of contact.

And few would deny Ann Barnes has not become one of the best known personalities in Kent - albeit not always for the right reason.

So it came as perhaps little surprise that when we gave our readers the chance to quiz her on any issue they responded in their numbers.

While the IPCC probe continues - which Mrs Barnes remains tight-lipped about while the investigation is on-going - the elected commissioner took a breather this week to answer questions submitted by readers of Kent on Sunday.

We put the good and the bad to her - and such was the depth of the responses, we thought it only fair to split the answers into two parts.

So be sure to pick up a copy of KoS next weekend for the concluding part.

QIT HAS been reported in the local media that Kent Police are against the switching off of street lights. Are you able to confirm that Kent Police are actively lobbying Kent County Council to put an end to this potentially dangerous strategy?

Will Scobie, Thanet and KCC councillor

the PoliceUK website my postal code shows a drastic increase in reported incidents compared to last year.

Michael Ayres, via email

AI AM really pleased that the number of homes being broken into in Kent is reducing. I have experienced a burglary and it is truly awful when you come home to find that someone has been rifling through your personal possessions.

I am sorry that Michael's area appears to have shown an increase - I don't know where he lives or what the cause may be or the numbers he is referring to, but I do know that just one offender can single-handedly have quite an impact on the numbers of crime in a particular neighbourhood.

Switching off street lights has bothered many people - I know as they write to me saying that they fear that the darkness must be encouraging burglars to commit crime.

I took these concerns to Kent Police who have been looking at crime levels and looking in detail at any fluctuations. Currently there does not appear to be any evidence that makes a strong case for leaving them on or switching them off. Certainly, there is research to say that people are more afraid that they are going to become victims of crime when it is dark.

But there is also research indicating that burglars like some light to see what they are doing rather than using a torch which draws attention to what they are doing.

“ But there is also research indicating that burglars like some light to see what they are doing rather than using a torch, which draws attention to what they are doing ”

IS THE turning off of Kent street lights between midnight and 5am responsible for the increase in reported crimes to the police? According to

Ann Barnes, on whether street lights being turned off aids the county's criminals



IN THE SPOTLIGHT: Ann Barnes has made headlines but does not shy away from the glare of publicity and is happy to answer your questions

I have asked Kent Police to continue monitoring and you can be assured that if there is a rise that can be attributed to the street lighting being turned off then I shall be taking this to Kent County Council.

Q I LIVE on a road where the speed limit is 30 mph. There is a Z-bend slow section where already 50 per cent of traffic exceeds this as measured, in 2014 by Kent Highways, and confirmed by speed watch sessions (40 over two years).

Consequently there are frequent minor accidents, not reported as there are no injuries. Where accidents occur and where police attend are few but are truly serious.

To compound this situation a further 600 houses are proposed to be built at nearby Kings Hill which will add further speeding traffic.

Our problem is that in today's economic environment our "accident profile" doesn't warrant the cost of any traffic calming.

Nevertheless, we live on what is essentially an 'accident black spot'.

My question is what can be done about the situation?

Diana Bullard, West Malling

A YOU do not mention which road you live on but I would urge that if are concerned about speeding motorists then make sure that your local parish council is aware of your concerns as well as your Kent county councillor.

You could use local publications, such as village and parish newsletters, to remind people of the speed limits.

I know that a speed check in my village showed that many of those who were not keeping to the speed limit actually lived locally, some of whom are my friends and neighbours!

In other areas of Kent, local district policing teams have worked with local schools. This work has involved officers stopping vehicles and

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IS THE FORCE WITH YOU? Ann Barnes refutes a reader's claim that Kent Police manipulates its crime-recording figures, saying that the county force now has the best accuracy in the country

« PAGE 15

giving drivers the option of talking to young people about why they were speeding. Feedback from those involved, including drivers, is that these young people make a very convincing case.

Q Why does Kent Police and the other 42 police forces in this country that come under home office regulations, deliberately collude with the Government to manipulate the crime figures to make them look better than they really are?

Graham Stevens, Faversham

A I ABSOLUTELY disagree with you. However, if you have evidence that the crime figures

are being manipulated then I would ask that you, as a member of the public, send me that evidence and I will deal with it.

One of the first things I did as Commissioner was to call in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to take an independent look at the force's crime recording practices and culture. I was concerned about what I was hearing and I did not feel that the people of Kent could have complete confidence in their force's crime data.

A huge amount of work has been undertaken by the force and crime recording accuracy is a verified 96 per cent. The HMIC has recently visited again and although we are awaiting confirmation that percentage is continuing to hold up.

I am confident that Kent Police now

has the best crime recording accuracy in the country.

How do I know that? Well – on the back of my independent report, the HMIC is undertaking a national review of crime recording accuracy.

I think you will find the results very interesting.

Q CAN you explain why police appeals for witnesses to crimes are often not released to the Press until weeks after they have happened - by which time the chances of anyone remembering the incident must be remote?

There have been three glaring examples in Kennington, Ashford, during the last 10 months: details of an armed raid at the local Co-op; an assault in the Canterbury Road, and

an attack in Larch Way, were only released by your media office long after they happened.

Robin Britcher,

Kennington Community Forum

A I AM advised that appeals to the local community for help in solving crimes are issued when information is available to prompt memories of possible witnesses.

This might be in the form of an e-fit image of a suspected offender or detailed descriptions from speaking to victims or witnesses.

The information may not immediately be available or an appeal may only become necessary during the later stages of an investigation when a number of other enquiries have already been carried out.

A one-size fits all response is definitely not the right thing to do.

Q Was Ann Barnes breathalysed following her uninsured accident? If not why not?

John Holmes, Cliffs End

A I WAS treated as any other member of the public involved in a road collision.

The officers were professional, as I would expect them to be. I was breathalysed - I do not drink and drive.

■ For the conclusion of the Q&A with Ann Barnes, pick up next week's edition of Kent on Sunday

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Farm happy planting seeds of fear when visitors come calling

Every Hallowe'en the folk at Broadditch Farm transform their rural retreat into a blood-soaked attraction. Our **Maria Chiorando** met some of the undead.

FEAR can be an art form – you only need to watch an Alfred Hitchcock film to understand that.

But if you still need convincing, then a visit to a farm in north Kent should do the trick.

Broadditch Farm, near Gravesend, has been hosting its Hallowe'en fright attractions for years, with every season becoming more popular.

It showcases five 'haunts', which are effectively modern versions of haunted houses, beautifully-dressed sets that are impressively rich in detail, texture and imagination.

The lighting is atmospheric and the spaces confined.

Actors, fully made up with special-effects wounds and blood, and decked out in impressively convincing costumes, fill the various rooms and corridors, ready to jump out and either talk to visitors or scare them further.

The team behind the scare destination takes the fear factor extremely seriously.

John Harris oversees the operation. He said: "An enormous amount of planning goes into every haunt and we start thinking about the new ones the day after they close.

"There's a lot of research and we have in the past been to a Hallowe'en convention in the USA for inspiration. You see a lot of good, fresh ideas, but it's also useful because you see a lot that doesn't work so well."

There are five haunts: Biometrix, the Spooky Castle, Containment, Field of Fear and Thirteen.

There is also other entertainment on site – a gang of actors known as the Monstrous Mob interacts with visitors as they queue for attractions and mill around.

"There really is something for everyone," said Mr Harris.

"There is a different level of fear attached to each haunt, so some are more appropriate for children, too [though children under 16 must be

accompanied by an adult]. We try to play on fear in different ways. For example, our haunt Thirteen is more psychological, playing on the phobias people have.

"A lot of what we do is based on the fear of suspense – that anticipation and fright of waiting for something to happen.

"We do play with classic notions of horror that you would find in movies – the idea of the hospital gone wrong, for example."

The different haunts have very different themes.

Biometrix (rated a terrifying five pumpkins out of five for fear factor) is new this year. It is a biometric facility, home to "the greatest scientists of our time" manipulating soldiers to make them the most effective in the world.

Something, however, has gone wrong during live testing and customers enter the facility amid the carnage.

Spooky Castle is the original haunt – it's classic old-fashioned macabre, with Victorian doctors and other creepy characters in the brilliantly-detailed castle rooms.

Field of Fear is set in a corn maze, filled with terrifying people and monsters. The moon is the only source of light on the way through the rows of corn.

Containment is an eerie hospital,

“An enormous amount of planning goes into every haunt and we start thinking about the new ones the day they close. There's a lot of research.”

John Harris, who oversees scary goings-on at Broadditch Farm



FRIGHTFUL: Biometrix, the Spooky Castle, Containment, Field of Fear and Thirteen are this year's terrifying zones

where doctors and patients have turned on each other. The hospital walls are daubed with blood, while televisions fizz black and white static in the background as bloodied characters perform in the rooms.

Thirteen is based on fears and superstitions. It houses nightmares, anxieties and unease, playing on

the weaknesses of the rational mind.

Mr Harris said: "As well as our haunts, we have the actors milling around, which is like street entertainment, as well as food and drink vans.

"You could spend the evening here without having to even enter the haunts. We also offer pumpkin-carving workshops and daytime activities."

The haunts are live until Sunday, November 2.

■ Broadditch Farm is on New Barn Road (B226), a little over two miles from Longfield. More information, including directions, is available at www.broadwitchhauntfest.co.uk. You can also email info@broadditch.co.uk or phone 01474 834161.

SCARE TACTICS ALL PART OF CAST'S REPERTOIRE

THE corridors at the farm feel like the backstage of a theatre, with what feels like hundreds of actors getting into costume and make-up while talking about the gathering crowds outside.

"If you need to walk past the crowds to get to the bathroom," one tells me, "just make sure you stay in character."

I've been invited to take part in Containment and am decked out in a medical robe and what feels like

a litre of fake blood. I am shocked every time I inadvertently spot myself in the mirror.

I can only imagine how terrifying the sight must be for the customers.

There is a wealth of impressive costumes and make-up special effects going on, including a chainsaw-wielding, blood-spattered man in dungarees and facially-disfigured Victoriana-style pool-hall wenches.

We are all assigned to different

rooms in the haunt. I am sharing an area with three others – Janice Williams, Tyler Lucas and Kate Barnes, all of them actors.

All three have taken part in the extravaganza several times and there's a good feeling of camaraderie.

They discuss their scare tactics for the evening and it's obvious they are experienced and enthusiastic. I take on board their hints and tips and wait for the first wave of visitors.

At first I'm a little inhibited, but it only takes a few minutes to get into the swing of things – it's easy to see why the actors enjoy the job so much.

"I've been doing this for a few years – my granddaughter did it first and told me about it and I'd wanted to do it for a while," said Ms Williams.

"You do spot the different types of people coming in – a lot of the blokes are the ones who get really scared, but they're trying to be macho, so they don't want to show it!"

Mr Lucas is now in his fifth year of performing in the haunts.

Dressed as a spectacular patient with mummy-style bandages (with the requisite blood, of course), he is the first character people see as they walk into the room.

He said: "We do try to think of different ways to scare people and you can really tell when it works."

"It's gets incredibly busy, and you have a constant rush of people coming through – they really love it!"

Their popularity only surges at this time of the year but for many they are a huge source of income.



Vegetable that has carved out a place in our affections

THERE is no other symbol that represents Hallowe'en more than the humble pumpkin.

But like turkeys at Christmas, the annual demand peaks to mark the traditional celebration – before slumping for the remainder of the year.

And while the price has stagnated, the demand for pumpkins at this time of year is still growing.

The good news is that courtesy of the summer, this year's crop should be a bumper one.

Toby Williams runs Stanhill Farm with his brother Max in Wilmington, near Dartford.

He explains: "We produce around 2,000 pumpkins, but just for this time of year. After Hallowe'en the market falls off a cliff.

"About half go off to wholesale and the rest are sold in our farm shop.

"This year the weather has been good to us, with plenty of sun. There has been rain, but we also irrigate the crop, too. They have ripened a little earlier this year than normal, but they store quite well."

At the other end of the spectrum is Mark Thompson at the Dan Mackelden farm near Sutton Valence, which supplies some 500,000 pumpkins to the major supermarkets nationally.

They specialise in pumpkins and have done for about 15 years.

He said: "We now have about 150 acres, whereas when we started it was just one.

"The market has been growing steadily over the years and even now we try to grow a few more than previous years.

"We are in the lap of the gods when it comes to how many are sold.

"We should have enough this year because the weather has been so good, but last year we came up short.

"This year for the first time we have 15 acres of pick-your-own running during October at the farm in Sevington, near Ashford."

He was reluctant to reveal how valuable his crop has become but is keen to see the market continue to develop.

Mr Thompson said: "We don't supply to the public, but we do ensure they are available to pretty much everyone. We get them all in at the end of September and start packing them early October.

"We have a team of about 15 guys here and they pick them all by hand over about two weeks. It doesn't take too long, providing the weather is with

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Berkeley
Designed for life

Chris Murphy talks to the pumpkin-growers who can't wait for Hallowe'en to come round every season.

BUMPER CROP: Toby Williams surveys the fruits of his labours, preparing his pumpkins for the oncoming rush

any left, you may as well throw them away."

He annually produces some 10 tons of the vegetable that is broadly ignored by Brits the rest of the year, which Mr Harris says, is a little sad.

But that hasn't stopped him setting aside a few acres to produce some 4,500 pumpkins each year, which are then sold only in his farm shop for 75p per kilo.

Mr Harris said: "That is the same price it has been for the last 10 years. There is demand, but it reaches a peak and that's it. We have not seen major growth in some time."

As for his latest crop, he said: "We have had a pretty good yield this year – they have grown pretty well and are nice and orange. I know that sounds a little odd, but they start off green and need plenty of sun to get them the right colour and ripen them up, and we have had plenty of that in the last month, which is important."

and eventually thrown away. We tend to plant different types so we have a broad range of sizes, from the really big ones to ones that can sit in your hand – so it is a large spectrum.”

These cost about £6 per person and after creating either one of the many faces available to copy, or making their own, the kids can then take their creation home with them.

Mr Harris, who has 500 acres of arable crops, said: "They are surprisingly popular workshops of around 20 people each time, so there is plenty of fun to be had."

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Record deal shows phenomenon

Looking for a cash injection? Then turn to social media, where investors are just an idea away, as **Jamie Weir** reports

WHETHER you're a business, a charity or a frustrated author, one thing is a near-certainty: at some time or other you will need extra money.

A business might look to sell equity, a charity could look to donations or grants, while for the author there are even fewer options.

However, now the power of the internet and social media is bringing potential investors together with those who are seeking funding for their projects, without the need for any middlemen.

From multimillion-pound businesses through to small charity groups trying to win financial backing for a project, crowdfunding is viewed increasingly as a method to draw in capital.

Crowdfunding involves an organisation or individual raising money from a large and disparate group of people who usually only deal in relatively small sums.

At an event this month for entrepreneurs in northern England, the businessmen attending were asked which funding sources they were likely to use during the next year.

Only 38 per cent stated traditional sources would be used, while the vast majority stated they would look to use some sort of crowdfunding to bring in new cash.

As 92 per cent of SME (small and medium-sized enterprise) debt is held by traditional lenders such as banks, and 8 per cent is funded by alternative sources, there is clearly serious potential for crowdfunding to change the cash-raising landscape.

And the industry is growing: in 2012 crowd-funding accounted for more than £580 million (65 per cent more than in 2011), rising to more than £750m in 2013.

The county's businesses are getting in on the action, with, for example, Chapel Down winery in Tenterden, which had already been valued at about £27m, recently raising another £3.95m in what was probably the biggest ex-



WAYS AND MEANS...

CROWDFUNDING comes in various guises. Some don't require the person being funded to give anything back, while others require repayment, with interest, to the funder.

It can be confusing, so here is a brief guide to the commonest types of crowdfunding.

- Donations are nothing more than a financial contribution. They are made to help realise a project where nothing is offered by the person or organisation receiving the funding in return.
- Rewards-based crowdfunding is a type of fund-raising where those who contribute with money to the campaign get something in

return, such as a dedication in a book they helped to finance.

- Pre-sales campaigns collect funds from people, using them to develop and produce a new product, which, once created, will be shipped to the funders.
- Crowd-lending refers to campaigns that borrow money from the crowd, promising to pay it back on certain terms. This may be either with or without interest.
- Crowd-investing can take the form of profit-sharing arrangements or investments into securities (debt or equity) issued by the firm that launched the campaign.

ample of crowdfunding seen in the UK.

The amount the business was allowed to raise was governed by European rules that cap money raised through the practice at that £3.95m mark.

It was a simple proposition: invest in the vineyard, for as little as £10, and funders would be given discounts on products and services. It proved a hugely successful

offer, with more than 1,400 investors putting money into the business in just over a month.

“I was finding a lot of existing shareholders were taking an extreme interest in the product and actually acting as brand ambassadors for the company”

Frazer Thompson, Chapel Down winery chief executive

Frazer Thompson is the chief executive of the vineyard and helped to spearhead the crowdfunding initiative. He told KoS why he decided to use this process rather than more traditional funding streams.

He said: “The primary reason was that if I'd gone to the City we could have raised £3m or £4m by speaking to a handful of people.

“But I was finding that a lot of our existing shareholders were taking an extreme interest in the product and were actually acting as brand ambassadors for the company.

“I'd much rather try to raise money from a group of people like this, who will actively go out there, at dinner parties and events, and sell the product for us.

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PASTURES NEW: Chapel Down winery in Tenterden raised £3.95m when it asked for new investors on the internet

"That just makes so much more sense than making the offering to three or four people who won't be able to speak to anywhere near as many people.

"Our smaller investors are more like pilgrims in their passion and commitment to Chapel Down. They are fantastic for us. We want to recruit more of them. And we want to make sure they are well looked after."

The offering by Chapel Down has also got more people in Kent involved in the company.

"One of the best things about using crowdfunding is that it opened up access to the public in Kent," said Mr Thompson.

"As a result, we are really proud to have hundreds of investors in Kent, whereas before the funding round we only had dozens.

"We were also able to use a number of Kent's businesses to help with the offering and used lawyers from the county as well as accountants to help run the offering smoothly.

"That was crucial as we knew it was going to be a big event."

It proved a winner, smashing the records for the fastest and most lucrative crowdfunding efforts as well as being the first time a listed company had used the method to raise equity.

Although the funding model can clearly suit business, it is also being

used in different spheres, with some charities taking to it.

The Aspinall Foundation, based in Kent, has used crowdfunding for a project to raise money for cameras to track and view gorillas released by the charity into the African wild.

Sarah Tite, fund-raising manager at the charity, told KoS that there was scope for charities to use crowdfunding to access a very different audience to their traditional donors.

She said: "We used this type of fund-raising for a particular and focused project for which we wanted to raise money. It was the first time

we had ever tried crowdfunding and it was definitely a success for us.

"While we also spoke to our traditional donors, the great thing about using this source was that it allowed us to reach out to a very different type of person – a younger audience and one which is more engaged with projects online and perhaps looking to make a social impact in a different way."

She says that, although there is scope for more charities to join in with crowdfunding, it does have its drawbacks.

She said: "Our crowdfunding was over a four-week period. With a traditional campaign, we would simply set it up and send it out, but this required much more active micromanaging.

"It was a much more labour-intensive process, so it did cost us in time.

"Despite this, we would certainly use crowdfunding again if we had a particular project that needed money raised for it."

The large-scale cuts suffered in the public sector over recent years have led a range of organisations down the path of crowdfunding.

Even educational establishments have followed it, with the Temple Grove Academy in Tunbridge Wells using it to help fund one of its projects.

Phil Holland, the academy's business manager, told KoS: "Everyone has budgets these days and they are generally getting tighter at the moment. Using different streams to help finance projects is something that

most organisations are becoming more used to and when we used crowdfunding to help raise money to help get some fruit trees planted at the school it seemed like the natural thing to do.

"It meant people were able to engage with the project and see it online and we were able to easily exceed our funding target."

Those budget restrictions impact across society and are pushing some individuals to use crowdfunding as a way of paying for things they need.

Yimby is one of the main crowdfunding platforms used in the UK.

In a concerning sign of the times, it says that some people are having to turn to this type of fund-raising to pay for such vital costs as health care.

Jack Sheldon, team leader at Yimby, said: "With a general rise in medical costs and some people finding that the NHS is not an option on some types of medical support, we're seeing increasing numbers of people turn to crowdfunding platforms like Yimby to fund their medical expenses.

"If someone receives an unexpected medical cost, then crowdfunding can be a great way to gather support from family, friends and the local community to help pay the bills.

"Many people might not have previously thought of using crowdfunding as a way to pay for unexpected medical costs, but with an increasing number of success stories, we're seeing more medical-based crowdfunding projects being added to Yimby."



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Are we really prepared for the threat of Ebola here?

By Sarah Linney
sarah.linney@archant.co.uk

PASSENGERS coming into Kent from countries affected by the Ebola outbreak look likely to be health-screened as the outbreak shows little sign of abating.

But with both the Port of Dover and Eurostar remaining tight-lipped about precisely what measures are to be taken, how ready the county actually is to deal with the threat of the disease is another matter.

Heathrow and Gatwick airports are currently screening at-risk passengers and Eurostar is expected to start doing the same but has refused to confirm when this will start or whether it will

take place at Ashford, Ebbsfleet or indeed both.

The Port of Dover is remaining similarly tight-lipped about its plans to start screening, stating only that it will "support whatever measures the Government deems appropriate".

Eurotunnel, however, confirmed it had not been asked to screen passengers.

John Keefe, director of public affairs, said: "85 per cent of our customers are UK travellers – the rest are northern European."

"Unlike Eurostar, which links with the airports, we have few intercontinental passengers and don't anticipate being asked to do screening as long as the outbreak remains in Africa."

Will Curtis, managing director of Biggin Hill airport, said he thought the airport was likely to be unaffected.

"We don't expect the issue to arise as we don't



DANGER ZONE? MP Sir Roger Gale, below right, asked what steps the Government was taking

get many flights from that part of the world," he said.

"If we did, we would rely on Border Force to tell us how to deal with it, but we probably wouldn't accept it."

"Business aviation is probably one of the lower-risk areas. The risk really lies in mainstream aviation and public transport rather than private jets."

Dr Jeremy Rossman, a virology lecturer from the University of Kent, said last week that there was "still only limited cause for concern within the UK"... but warned that

this might not remain the case if the outbreak in Africa was not brought under control.

"There is heightened security and screening intended to keep infected people from leaving the Ebola region, and the NHS has prepared treatment and quarantine facilities in the event that a case does arise in the UK," he said.

"Unfortunately, Ebola



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to screen major routes from abroad into Kent

has a long incubation period, which means that an infected person may pass all screening tests before becoming sick, so it is not possible to completely prevent infected individuals from entering the country.

"Hospitals and clinicians have been trained to recognise Ebola and even if an isolated outbreak did occur in the UK it is unlikely the disease would spread, given the health-care system and our available resources.

"However, this situation could change if the exponential spread of Ebola in west Africa is not halted soon."

However, Thanet North MP Sir Roger Gale said it was better to be over-vigilant than to allow an outbreak to occur.

He tabled a question in the House of Commons, to which he has yet to receive an answer, asking what steps were being taken to screen not only travellers coming through the Port of Dover but illegal immigrants trying to get into the UK from Calais.

"There are around 1,000 potential illegal immigrants living in makeshift camps in Calais, where sanitation is low," Sir Roger said.

"They, by their nature, cannot be subject to any pre-embarkation screening, but in the interests of humanity we need to work with the French authorities to try to limit the prospects of an outbreak.

"Quite a lot of them come from relatively far-flung places. There are a significant number of former French colonies in Africa, such as Senegal – just up the coast from Sierra Leone and Liberia [where many of the Ebola cases have occurred]."

He agreed with Dr Rossman that it was impossible, in practical terms, to stop Ebola coming to the UK but said as much as possible needed to be done to find at-risk travellers, screen them and, if necessary, quarantine them.

"It is better to be safe than sorry – it is in those people's interests as well," Sir Roger said.

"If we are going to screen Eurostar, shouldn't we screen the Channel Tunnel, too? Someone could fly in from Africa and get a hire car.

"You can't screen every passenger in depth – it would be a logistical impossibility – but we should take sensible precautions.

"If it's a choice between another half-hour of frustration and stopping Ebola getting into the UK, yes, it's a crashing bore, but it's no contest – you just have to get to the terminal half an hour earlier.

"If it looks as though we are going to get anything resembling an outbreak, the port and all the airports will be shut. Those who are hoping this will go away are living in a fool's paradise."

Half-term offers budding F1 stars chance to show off their track skills

CHATHAM karting track Buckmore Park will be offering turn-up-and-drive sessions on its circuit over the half-term holidays.

Even the youngest children are encouraged to have a go, with the park's Mini GP track open to children between the ages of four and seven, while older racers get the chance to take to the track on both the club and national circuits.

And it's fun for all ages on the track, with

open sessions for anyone over eight years old available. Families can also settle a score on the track, with exclusive sessions on the Paddock Circuit to find out whether Dad really is as good as he thinks.

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Stroke victim knows importance of highlighting the warning signs

As part of World Stroke Day on October 29, Teresa Lamkin will be using her first-hand experience to educate public on unseen killer, writes **Molly Kersey**



TIME TO ACT FAST

WHILE signs can vary, they will usually begin suddenly.

The FAST test (Face, Arms, Speech, Time) advises people on what to look for.

Face: A person's face may drop to one side, their mouth or eye might have drooped and they will be unable to smile.

Arms: They will be unable to lift either one or both of their arms and keep them there, due to arm weakness or numbness.

Speech: A person may have slurred or garbled speech, or might not be able to talk at all.

Time: This is the moment to call 999 immediately if any of the above symptoms have been spotted.

Other signs could include a sudden and severe headache, difficulty in swallowing, problems with balance and coordination, dizziness, a sudden loss of vision or difficulty talking and understanding what other people are saying.

The symptoms of TIA are the same as a stroke.

They can differ in length before the symptoms disappear, but it is important not to ignore them and still seek medical assistance, either by contacting your GP, out-of-hours service or local hospital.

There is about a one-in-10 chance that people who have a TIA will experience a full stroke during the four weeks following it.

WHEN Teresa Lamkin fell over and went to bed with a "fuzzy head", she didn't think anything was seriously wrong.

But she was in fact experiencing a transient ischaemic attack (TIA), also known as a mini-stroke.

These attacks are a warning that there is a problem with the blood supply to the brain, and those people who suffer from them could be at risk of a full stroke.

"I was sad at the time," Ms Lamkin said.

"I'd gone into a changing room to try on a dress and I fell over, thought nothing of it, came home and went to bed. I had a fuzzy head, I thought I had a headache. While I was sleeping I actually had the TIA.

"When I woke up the next morning my husband had to carry me to the doctor's surgery. Straight away they got me to the hospital.

"I made a full recovery. I am very fortunate, but there are a lot of people I got to know through rehabilitation and there were people dying from their strokes or left severely handicapped.

"I was treated and the severity of my stroke wasn't that bad, but it was

a warning. You have the mini-stroke before you have the main one."

Ms Lamkin, 51, of Swanley, is now urging people to be more aware of the symptoms of stroke and get any possible signs of a TIA checked.

"You have to get all these things checked out. You can go into any walk-in centre. If something doesn't feel right, then you need to just go and get it checked.

"I cut out a lot of fatty foods, changed my diet and changed my lifestyle. I became healthier."

Ms Lamkin will be helping to mark World Stroke Day on Thursday. She will be talking to commuters in the

"I think a lot of the time people are under the misconception that a stroke happens to someone who is old, and that's not the case. Anyone can have one"

Teresa Lamkin, pictured right, who suffered a stroke in her sleep



foyer of Bromley South train station, where she works, and hopes to raise awareness that could be the difference between life and death.

There will also be a stand with leaflets from the UK's stroke charity, which passengers will be encouraged to take.

"I hope that we can have trains full of people reading the leaflets from the Stroke Association on the morning of World Stroke Day. I would like to see more people aware of the symptoms of stroke in case they are ever faced with a fellow passenger having a stroke," she said.

A stroke is an attack on the brain that occurs as a result of a clot or bleeding in the brain, which causes brain cells to die.

There are some 152,000 in the UK every year, and while many people affected are over the age of 65 a stroke can happen to anyone, even babies and children.

It is one of the country's biggest killers and a leading cause of disability, but there are many people who do not fully understand what it is or what it entails.

Ms Lamkin knows how important it is to quickly realise someone needs help and get them the right medical attention, and she has previously

identified that two passengers were having a stroke.

She is keen to dispel the myths that surround the condition.

"I have had two passengers on my trains who have been taken ill," she said. "When one of the chaps was having a stroke, someone actually said he was drunk. As soon as I got him off the train I knew immediately that something was wrong.

"I want to let passengers know that stroke can happen to anyone, at any age. I think a lot of the time people are under the misconception that a stroke happens to someone who is old, and that's not the case," she said.

"I hope that by sharing information in the station on World Stroke Day we can really make a difference and let people know what a stroke is, and how important it is to act fast. If you see someone sitting next to you acting or looking a certain way, then they might be having a stroke.

"You can ask someone to stick their tongue out, because your tongue will not come out straight – it falls to one side. People can't smile if they're having a stroke. It's all to do with time. It's so important."

■ **For more information about stroke, phone 03033033100 or visit www.stroke.org.uk.**

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Will motormouth Clarkson be going off with a bang?

Top Gear presenter is favourite to be chosen as the fall Guy for fireworks event

SPECULATION is rife as to who will be the celebrity Guy on the top of the Edenbridge bonfire this year – with the hot favourite set to be Top Gear motormouth Jeremy Clarkson.

The annual torchlight procession followed by a fireworks spectacular remains the county's most famous of events, capturing headlines for its choice of topical characters it models its Guy on.

In previous years, the Edenbridge Bonfire Society, which organises the event, has torched effigies of the likes of disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong, politicians Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, footballers Mario Balotelli and Wayne Rooney and celebrity loudmouths Katie Hopkins, Katie

Price and Jonathan Ross.

This year thousands will take part in the procession and many thousands more will come along to join in the fun.

But the event is just one of many taking place across the county, a substantial number of which will be taking place next weekend.

There's all the pomp and majesty of the extravaganza at Leeds Castle, the traditional family fun event at Tunbridge Wells's Dunorlan Park and plenty of schools staging events in their grounds – many of which will be for a good cause.

On the following pages we take a look at some of the best-known events. And don't forget to check on our website www.kentnews.co.uk for all the latest displays.

VENUES

Where: Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

When: October 31-November 1

Time: 6pm-11pm

What: Billed as Kent's longest-running fireworks display, you have the choice of two back-to-back events. The first night is a Spooky Hallowe'en spectacular, the following a Best of British spectacular.

Tickets: The earlier you buy, the bigger the discount. Purchased in advance, they will set you back £7.

Where: Leeds Castle, Maidstone

When: November 8-9

Time: 5.30pm

What: This year themed Go Wild, it is billed as the most

incredible display of pyrotechnics that will light up the sky over the castle, synchronised with moving images and rousing music. Arrive early for the Go Wild-themed afternoon entertainment, plus hot food and drinks at a variety of stalls. **Tickets:** £19 (£12.50 for U-16s). Must be pre-booked.

Where: Dunorlan Park, Tunbridge Wells

When: November 1

Time: 7pm (Gates at 5pm)

What: Traditional and hugely popular annual fireworks event in the grounds of the picturesque Dunorlan Park. Organised by the town's Round Table, the

Continued on page 31 »

» Email us details of your event to:
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 Tel: 01233 653476



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« Continued from page 29

spectacular display for all the family has been running since 1957.

Tickets: £6 adults, £3 children

Where: Edenbridge

When: November 8

Time: 6.30pm

What: The Edenbridge Bonfire Society has developed quite a reputation for itself over the years courtesy of selecting, and making, a topical giant Guy to sit on its bonfire. The display and bonfire follows the traditional parade through the town.

Tickets: £6 adults, £3 children in advance – £7 and £3 on the gate)

Where: Rodmersham School

When: November 4

Time: Doors: 6pm. Fireworks 6.45pm

What: The first display to take place at the school in Rodmersham, near Sittingbourne, all money raised will go towards funding a new school minibus. Also features a BBQ, stalls and bar.

Tickets: £15 for family of four, or adults £5, children/OAPs £4 (available from school office or on the night)

Where: Croydon Road Recreation

Ground, Beckenham

When: November 1

Time: 6pm-10pm

What: The Beckenham Round Table Fireworks and Funfair returns to the Croydon Road Recreation Ground for an event for all ages.

Tickets: £7 adults, £4 children.



LIGHT ON: Leeds Castle hosts a magnificent display, while disgraced cyclist Lance Armstrong has featured as the celebrity Guy at Edenbridge

Family tickets £20

Where: Langley Park School for Girls, Beckenham

When: November 8

Time: 6pm-7.45pm

What: Rotary Club of West Wickham and Langley Park Girl presents its 20th annual fireworks musical display in the grounds of the school in Hawkbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road. Proceeds go to

St Christopher's Hospice, other charities, community projects and the school. Hot food, drinks, glow sticks and novelties will be available to purchase.
Tickets: £6 adults, £3.50 children. Family ticket £14.

Where: Longmead Stadium, Tonbridge

When: October 31

Time: Gates 6pm. Fireworks at 8pm.

What: Tonbridge Round Table presents its annual fireworks display at the home of Tonbridge Angels FC.

Tickets: £5 in advance, £6 on the gate. Family tickets available.

Where: Ashford Rugby Club

When: November 8

Time: Gates 5pm. Bonfire lit 7pm. Fireworks 7.30pm.

What: Ashford Rugby Club hosts its annual display at its home off Canterbury Road. Features food stalls, real ales, a beer bus and amusements.

Tickets: £6 adults, £3 children. Family ticket £15

Where: Merton Farm, Canterbury

When: November 8

Time: Gates: 4.30pm. Bonfire lit 5pm. Fireworks 6.30pm

What: Fireworks on the Farm, at Merton Farm, is organised by the Canterbury Round Table, with money raised going to charities and good causes. A family-friendly display, with free parking.

Tickets: Online in advance: £5 adults, £2.50 children. On the gate: £10/£5

Where: The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence, Canterbury

When: November 5

Time: Gates 5.30pm, finish 9pm

What: Annual fireworks spectacular hosted at the headquarters of Kent County Cricket Club. Features entertainment and fireworks.

Tickets: Adults £6 in advance (£8 on the gate)/children £3/£4. Family tickets available.

31st October - 2nd November

Crafts for Christmas

The Kent Pavilions, Kent County Showground, Detling, Maidstone, ME14 3JF.

Opening: Friday & Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm

An opportunity to meet Britain's most talented makers, purchase inspirational gifts and festive foods, Dan Kennedy from the Kent Cookery School, UK Seafood Champion and experienced Michelin star chef, will be demonstrating canapes and finger foods throughout the show.

Please bring this advert to the event to receive a 50p reduction off any one entrance ticket.

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At the event: Adults: £7.00 Seniors: £6.00
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LEEDS CASTLE FIREWORKS

GO WILD

8th & 9th November 2014

This year Leeds Castle Fireworks 'Go Wild' with music inspired by animals of the world. For two consecutive nights, the most incredible display of pyrotechnics will light up the sky over the Castle, synchronised with moving images and rousing music.

Adult: £19; Child (under 16 yrs): £12.50, Under 4s: Free
Group Rates (15 or more) Adult £16; Child: £11.50

Visit www.leeds-castle.com/events
or call the Box Office on **01622 880008**
(open from 1st October, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm)

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LEEDS CASTLE KENT ENGLAND

Russian ballet's Swan Lake

THE Russian State Ballet and Opera House bring the classic Swan Lake to Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall Theatre on December 3.

It is part of a nationwide tour, which includes a date in Chatham tonight (Sunday).



Arcade's Hallowe'en scare

A SPECIAL Hallowe'en event takes place at Dreamland's late@theArcade venue in Margate this week.

Taking place on Friday, October 31, the Cabaret of Horrors event is hosted by drag act La Voix and promises to entertain, thrill, chill and make you blush.

It starts at 7pm.

Tribute act hits right note

THE charms of Phil Collins continue to entertain loyal fans. Now a leading tribute act is on its way to the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on November 22.

No Jacket Required will perform a string of the star's best-known hits.



Teachers' work on display

AN EXHIBITION of paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures from teachers at a Thanet school go on public display at the Beach Creative Centre in Herne Bay this week.

Opening on Wednesday, October 29, it showcases work by four teachers at the Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs.

So who's the boss now? Legendary guitarist Nils back on the road again

Former Springsteen band member ready to revive songs from yesteryear

HE REMAINS best known for his role in Bruce Springsteen's legendary E Street Band but Nils Lofgren has carved out a successful solo career, too, since the success of the multimillion-selling Born in the USA catapulted them all into global fame.

And now the songwriter, guitarist and pianist is returning to the UK early next year for a tour that will see him call in at Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall Theatre.

It comes in the wake of the release of his Face the Music 10-disc retrospective box-set charting his 45 years of recording.

Now 63, Lofgren started performing as a teenager, joining

Neil Young's band Crazy Horse at the tender age of 17 before enjoying success with Grin and then as a solo artist.

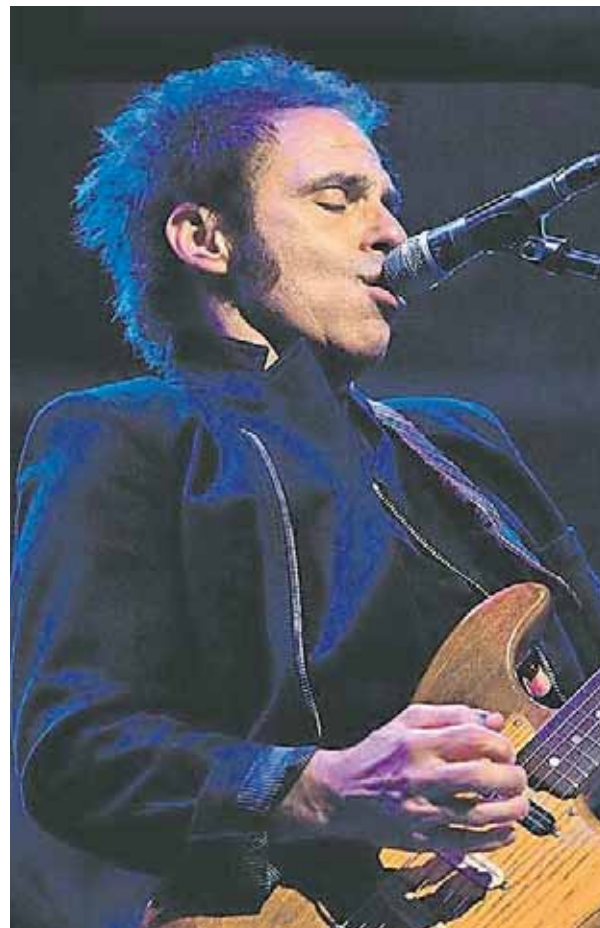
But it was his time as part of the E Street Band that fired him to worldwide recognition.

He joined the band in 1984, just as Born in the USA exploded on to the music scene, making The Boss [Springsteen] the lastest in American megastars.

Recently inducted into the Rock'n'Roll Hall of Fame, Lofgren will be joined for an acoustic set by multi-instrumentalist Greg Varlotta.

Fans can expect to hear favourites Shine Silently, I Came to Dance, Don't Go and a journey through his back catalogue.

The show comes to Tunbridge Wells on Sunday, January 18.



HALL-OF-FAMER: Nils Lofgren joined the E Street Band back in 1984



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Undead bring life to latest macabre offering from the Circus of Horrors

WHEN the Circus of Horrors recently pitched up for a series of dates in London's West End, it became the first time a circus had ventured on to Theatre Land's sacred boards for 100 years.

Yet, such is the success of the show, as it marks its 20th anniversary this year, that is just one of a number of remarkable achievements it can count against its name.

But then this is no normal circus. While others shout of their family-friendly credentials, the Circus of Horrors hints at bad language and nudity, and issues a strict 'not suitable for children' warning.

What's more, it is perhaps the perfect treat if you're looking for

something a little different to chill the blood this Halloween.

So prepare to get spooked by the show when it performs three dates across the county over the coming weeks, with stops in Chatham, Folkestone and Sevenoaks.

Combining sword-swallowers, acrobats, knife-throwers, fire limbo and a host of other gruesome and dramatic attractions (it even boasts of a 'demon dwarf'), it has built up the reputation of the new breed of circus productions.

It asks its audience to imagine "if Quentin Tarantino had directed Cirque du Soleil, then you'd be only halfway there".

Starting life at the 1995 Glastonbury Festival, it has toured the world and performed at festivals

alongside the likes of Oasis, Iron Maiden, Enimem, Alice Cooper and Manic Street Preachers.

Its latest show, *The Night of the Zombie*, is set in 2020 with a corpse-ridden London plagued by a swamp of zombies.

The last few years has seen the show's profile jump tremendously after it reached the finals of Britain's Got Talent. That sparked a host of other TV appearances, among them *The X Factor*, *Daybreak*, *This Morning* and *The One Show*.

■ **Circus of Horrors performs at Central Theatre, Chatham, on November 7; Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on November 12; and The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks on November 19. Contact each venue for booking details.**



FANGTASTIC: Awe-inspiring Circus of Horrors is returning to the county

Big crowd set for May

IMELDA May continues to ride the wave of success as her nationwide tour rolls into Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall next month.

The Irish singer-songwriter with the rockabilly sound will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall on November 21.

The 40-year-old has performed with a host of some of the biggest names, among them U2 frontman Bono. Her latest album, *Tribal*, reached number three in the UK charts.

Crafts set for Christmas

SEVEN artists and print-makers will be showcasing their talents in Gravesend next month.

The Active Artists event takes place at the St Andrews Arts Centre on November 22-23 and is supported by Gravesham Arts.

The local talents hope the varied and quality work could provide the perfect Christmas gift.

The event runs from 11am to 6pm on the Saturday and 11am to 5pm on the Sunday.

Talk by Tom Hart Dyke

GARDENER and occasional kidnap victim Tom Hart Dyke will be giving a special illustrated talk in Bexleyheath on November 8.

The plant-hunter, once kidnapped while travelling in Colombia, will talk about his World Garden that he maintains at his home at Lullingstone Castle in Eynsford, near Dartford.

The event takes place at Christ Church in the Broadway at 2.30pm. Tickets £8.

Great Gatsby dances in

THE Northern Ballet's production of F Scott Fitzgerald's classic *The Great Gatsby* opens for a short run at Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre this week.

The acclaimed touring production begins on Tuesday, October 28, and concludes next Saturday, November 1.

It features music composed by Academy Award-nominated and BAFTA-winning composer Sir Richard Rodney Bennett and played live by the Northern Ballet Sinfonia.

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Petra – dish of any Jordanian day

TRAVEL REVIEW: Jordan

by Celia Paul

SQUEEZED between Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Israel, Jordan is a country described by locals as a quiet voice in a noisy neighbourhood, managing to maintain stability and relative prosperity despite the turmoil and conflicts that have rocked the Middle East.

Its success as a tourist destination has always been primarily thanks to the ancient Nabataean city of Petra – a community of dwellings hewn from the mountains, lost to the world until the 19th century. For many visitors, Petra marks the beginning and end of a visit to Jordan.

But there's so much more to Jordan than the Rose City. And before I make it to view one of the most spectacular sights the Middle East has to offer, I'm set to get a taste of life in the rest of the country. First up... Amman, the capital.

From the falafel and shawarma stalls dotting the capital to Rainbow Street, where the city's teens gather to eat, date and hang out, and the welcoming terrace of Beit Sitti, where I'm lovingly taught generations-old recipes, Amman provides ample opportunity for me to get to grips with Jordanian cuisine.

The urbane, multicultural capital is a world away from rural life, but the strong sense of hospitality that marks Jordanian cooking and entertaining finds its roots in traditions that have been passed down the centuries.

In the Dana Biosphere Reserve, to the south of the country, lies the Feynan EcoLodge – a remote desert outpost reachable only via a bumpy 4x4 ride.

Amid the arid, rocky hills that surround the lodge, on a blisteringly



IN THE PINK: The Rose City of Petra is unquestionably a wonderful place but there's an awful lot more to Jordan

hot, hazy afternoon, I sit down with the Bedouin.

I'm shown how to behave appropriately during the ritualistic preparation and drinking of the cardamom-spiced coffee; how to bake bread in the ashes of the fire that's still the Bedouins' sole method of cooking; and how to line my eyes with home-made kohl.

I then trudge back through the

rocky terrain to be served a rather different dinner.

Soundtracked by the jangling bells of the goats and, at intervals, the call to prayer that can still be heard loud and clear deep in the desert, we feast by candlelight.

It proves the perfect preparation for the Jordanian big hitter, Petra. Not, of course, that any self-respecting host in this country would ever consider

waving us off for a day of sightseeing without a hefty breakfast of flatbreads, dried fruits, honey and yogurt.

It's a hair-raising journey through the mountainous back roads from Feynan to Petra, around hairpin bends and above sheer drops that have clearly scared off the majority of drivers, who prefer to take the less scenic but more practical main route towards the

TRAVEL FACTS

CELIA Paul was a guest of the Jordanian Tourist Board. Visit www.visitjordan.com

MasterChef Travel (www.mastercheftravel.com; 020 7873 5005) has a six-day/ five-night tour of Jordan, priced from £1,245 per person, including flights, transfers, excursions and accommodation, with breakfast and other meals as specified. Splendours Of An Ancient Land departs on November 4, 2014, and February 17, March 17 and April 21, 2015.

country's tourist hub.

But, gradually, the mountains start to take on a pink tinge, the roads once again become busy, and we enter the red sandstone landscape of Petra.

Half-built, half-carved into the rock, the city is a breathtaking feat of ancient engineering, hidden from the Western world until Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt discovered it in 1812.

Even in one of the world's most visited sites, packed to the gills with tourists and those who make their money from them, modernity and tradition sit hand in hand.

And there's no better way to find that out than through the Jordanian food scene.

Whether you're indulging in high-end sushi in Amman, or you're lucky enough to be invited to share in a family feast, meals are a social occasion, and the warmth of the hospitality you're guaranteed to experience is the result of a centuries-old ritual.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



THE JUDGE
(15, 141 mins) Drama/Thriller/
Romance

Release: Now

THE law is an ass and the people who administer it bigger asses in David Dobkin's courtroom drama about an estranged family reunited under the testing conditions of a murder trial.

The Judge takes its sweet time going through the legal motions, grafting on a superfluous romantic subplot to the revelations in the dock.

Thankfully, lead actors Robert

Downey Jr and Robert Duvall sink their teeth into their broadly sketched characters and energise the dysfunctional father-son relationship that provides the film with its conflict and heart-tugging emotion.

Nick Schenk and Bill Dubuque's script doesn't conceal any narrative aces up its sleeve but does play fair, methodically resolving issues as the court case reaches a suitably tense resolution.

Rating 6/10

**TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA
TURTLES**
(12A, 101 mins) Action/Fantasy/
Comedy/Romance

Release: Now

THE adventures of turtle brothers Donatello, Leonardo, Michelangelo and Raphael began life in the mid-1980s as an irreverent comic book and rapidly spawned an animated TV series, a trilogy of films and a dizzying array of merchandise.

Turtle power has endured to the

present day, including a computer-animated series on Nickelodeon.

It's no surprise, then, that Jonathan Liebesman, director of Wrath Of The Titans, has resurrected the heroes in a half-shell for the big screen.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles is an outlandish, action-heavy romp that remains faithful to earlier incarnations, condensing the characters' back-story into a snazzy opening sequence.

Die-hard fans will enjoy the heavy whiff of nostalgia, but if Liebesman was hoping to indoctrinate a new generation, he has cowabungled it.

His film is incredibly violent, albeit bloodless, reducing two very young boys in my screening to distressed screams.

Rating 5/10

THE BEST OF ME
(12A, 118 mins) Romance/Drama

Release: Now

NICHOLAS Sparks's hopelessly



romantic fictions are catnip to Hollywood.

Just as fast as the best-selling American novelist can churn out another heart-tugging tale of love lost and found (and lost again), film-makers immortalise the yearning and heartache with as much gloss as they can muster.

Two years ago, Zac Efron flexed in a tight-fitting vest opposite Taylor Schilling for The Lucky One.

Last year, Josh Duhamel's hunky

widower protected Julianne Hough's battered beauty in Safe Haven.

Now, James Marsden and Michelle Monaghan stare dreamily into each other's twinkling eyes for this swoonsome yarn about two childhood sweethearts gifted a second chance at happiness when they least expect it.

Love is a many-splendoured, yet unapologetically clichéd, thing.

Rating 5/10

Preparing to celebrate as those cold winter nights draw in? Then here's the pick of the bubbly bunch...

ONE of life's luxuries, elegantly dressed in a dark bottle, champagne is always a celebration. The name alone brings a sparkle to the eye with the promise of pronounced pleasure.

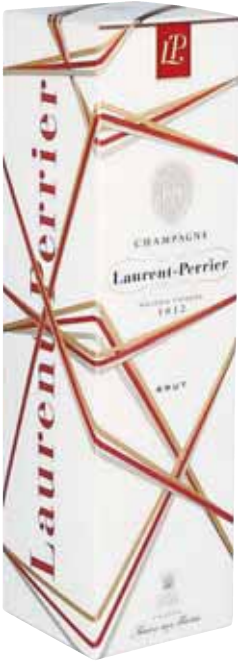
But before the cork is popped and the bubbles flow, remember each champagne label is an expression of the unique chalky soils, quality of grapes and the chef de cave (cellar master) who, from generation to generation, has perfected the style and blend for their House.

This year, the harvest came on time and, thanks to a warm spring and sunny September, plus the Champenois' commitment to picking and pressing the highest possible quality of grapes, the Champagne Bureau says the future looks bright for a possible 2014 vintage.

To raise a glass to the end of the picking, here are some famous names, own-brand labels and boutique bottles showcasing the best of this liquid gold.

Champagne-lovers looking for a best-value champagne, with the potential to be served at either a big bash or a beggars banquet, should try Waitrose Brut NV, France (£19.99, Waitrose).

Produced for them by family-run Duval-Leroy, who are noted for their consistency and good quality, it's Pinot noir dominant (for strength and body) and this blend of 90 per cent Pinot and 10 per cent Chardonnay has a delicious toasty, nutty nose with lovely depth of fruit and freshness on the finish.



A sparkling choice

The latest vintage release from Moët & Chandon in two years (they decided 2005 wasn't quite up to scratch), Moët Grand Vintage 2006, France (£43.99, Tesco), was worth the wait.

Mother Nature has blessed this classic blend of Chardonnay (42 per cent), Pinot noir (39 per cent) and Pinot Meunier (19 per cent) with freshness, ripeness and fruitiness for delicious concentration with plush

fruit leading to clean acidity on the finish.

Especially optimistic about the 2014 harvest, Laurent-Perrier points out that maturity kept it waiting but the grapes are an exceptional

weight, the vineyards are healthy and the result is a fantastic harvest.

With a new gifting range ahead of the festive season, try the ever-popular Laurent-Perrier Brut NV, France (£37.99, Waitrose).

Fresh, light and elegant, L-P has a much higher proportion of Chardonnay (for finesse) than other famous non-vintage styles and it's fine, crisp and minerally with delicate fruits on the finish.

With more than 300 cru villages, small-grower champagnes can be just as exciting as some of the grand marques and Vilmart is a fifth-generation champagne grower that cites the use of new oak as adding another dimension to its wine – a stark contrast to Laurent-Perrier, which is fermented in stainless steel.

Try Vilmart Grand Reserve Brut Premier Cru NV, France (£27.99, www.virginwines.co.uk), which is a blend of Pinot noir and Chardonnay with a floral, lemon nose, a generous palate of attractive citrus fruits with light bread notes and a lingering oaky finish.

Meanwhile, Veuve Fournay Blanc de Blancs Nature Champagne, France (£25, www.31dover.com), is made entirely from premier cru Chardonnay grapes without the use of sugar and this zero dosage champagne is bone-dry, delicious, and a decadent choice with light Asian bites, especially sushi, and oysters.

Crisp with green fruit aromas, and zingy acidity, it's lively and very approachable with the right food.

www.canterburytales.org.uk

THE TERRIBLE TALES

A SPINE TINGLING LIVE AND GRUESOME HORROR PERFORMANCE... ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO EXPERIENCE THE CANTERBURY TALES LIKE NEVER BEFORE?

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Please note: Due to the content, this event is not suitable for Under 12s. Strobe lighting is used during the performance.

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Things are getting spooky at Buckmore Park this half term...

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WWW.BUCKMORE4KIDS.CO.UK


Walpole Bay Hotel

Open all year to non-residents, the elegant Edwardian restaurant with Napkin Gallery at the Walpole Bay Hotel offers timeless elegance along with delicious home-cooked food and amazing sea views. Our family-run hotel, a "living" museum, is famous for our afternoon cream teas and particularly Sunday luncheons where you'll be quietly entertained by our live pianist, Nick Capocci! Booking is required to avoid disappointment. See the website for menus

NOW BOOKING PRE-CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHTS, please call for availability

JOIN US ON 20th November for our Jazz supper, held on 3rd Thursday of every month. Delicious food served with live entertainment and dancing

Tel 01843 221703 info@walpolebayhotel.co.uk
5th Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JJ
www.walpolebayhotel.co.uk



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Stade Street, West Parade Hythe CT21 6DT | Tel: 01303 268263
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Christmas at Carter's

Just like Carol's Christmas Stories - Carters has created a Festive menu that ensures that you will have a seamless eating experience from start to finish

Chapter 1 - The start of the Journey
Romanesco Fennel Soup
 A creamy flavoured Fennel soup garnished with winter greens smokey bacon and croutons
Pheasant Terrine
 Local shot Pheasant, with port, Apricots - encased in Parma ham and served with a quince and onion relish
Soused Mackerel
 Hythe Line caught mackerel lightly soured and served with a celeriac apple salad, topped with Beetroot meringue and horseradish chutney

Chapter 2
Traditional Roast Turkey
 Roasted Smear herb buttered Turkey with all the traditional garnishes and pan juices
Sea Bass Provencal
 Marinated pan fried fillet of Sea Bass served with a melange of tomatoes, garlic and pan juices
Vegetarian Polenta
 Fried medallions of Polenta with caramelised figs, red onion chutney and crumbled Goats' Cheese

Chapter 3
Pomegranate Mojito Mocktail
 Freshly squeezed pomegranate juices, steeped with mint and juices of Lime to cleanse the palette

Chapter 4
Clementine Jelly
 Spiced marinated clementine set in lemon jelly scented with prosecco and gold leaf
Iced Choca - Mocha Terrine
 Coffee liqueur soaked biscuits with chocolate and mascarpone cream

Traditional Piggy Pudding
 The ultimate Christmas pudding soaked in rum and festive spices. Served with Brandy sauce.

Finale
 Local ground Biddenden coffee with Brazil nuts covered in marzipan, coated in dark chocolate and pistachios
£17.50 per person
 Menu is offered from the 2nd - 17th Dec lunchtimes only.

CALL 01233 653530 TO BOOK
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 Full balance due
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 The fun starts from 6pm
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 Come as you are or in Fancy Dress

Christmas Menus Now Available

Menu 1:
 Two Courses £7.95
 Three Courses £8.95
 Available Monday to Friday 12 - 2pm

Menu 2:
 Two Courses £13.95
 Three Courses £14.95
 Served from 2nd Nov to 23rd Dec
 Available Monday to Friday 12 - 2pm
 & Tuesday to Saturday 6.30 - 9pm
 Early booking is essential

Christmas Menus
 Now Available

Menu 1:
 Two Courses £7.95
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 Three Courses £14.95
 Served from 2nd Nov to 23rd Dec
 Available Monday to Friday 12 - 2pm
 & Tuesday to Saturday 6.30 - 9pm
 Early booking is essential

Eating Out Guide

Rustic charms serve up a tasty treat

WHEN you conjure up an image of a classic cosy restaurant as the perfect location for a memorable meal, then The Red Lion surely ticks all the boxes.

Situated four miles outside Faversham in the village of Hernhill, The Red Lion is a 14th-century inn with a rustically wonderful interior of flagstones and beams.

To the side is a large garden with a children's play area and a car park.

And as autumn rolls into winter, there's nowhere better than keeping

warm in front of our cosy open log fire.

Upstairs is the new beautiful, beamed Champagne Bar and function room available for functions and meetings.

There is a selection of cask ales and kegs beers and cider to suit all, plus good wines and soft drinks.

Food is served every lunchtime and evening, except Christmas Day.

The food is home-cooked, tasty and plentiful and you can choose from the main menu or from the specials.

Lunchtime snacks are available, for those wanting a smaller meal, every day except on Sunday, when roasts of pork, beef and lamb are on the menu.

And for just £28.95 a head, you can book your Christmas party now.

You can choose from the set menu from a range of starters, mains and desserts including all the classic dishes to celebrate the festive season in style.

The Red Lion is in Crockham Lane, Hernhill, ME13 9JR (phone 01227 751207, web www.theredlion.org).



A warm and cosy greeting at popular brasserie

FOR just over four years, the Hythe Brasserie has been cooking up an enviable reputation for the quality of its food and drink and the warm welcome it provides.

Based in Douglas Avenue, on a corner just off High Street, the intimate brasserie is owned and personally managed by Nicki and Darragh Cartmill.

Warm and cosy in the autumn and winter, while offering alfresco dining on sunny days, the owners' personal touch ensures you'll want to come back again and again.

It promises classic cuisine with an imaginative twist. Chef and owner Darragh is Irish, so there's a Celtic influence that can be felt.

Typical dishes include maple-roasted pork belly bites with white pudding and apple sauce, lamb loin with caramelised apricots, cumin and coriander, fillet of brill with braised fennel and saffron butter sauce or tempura battered monkfish with a hot and sour dip.

Or perhaps crab and salmon tart glazed with dill hollandaise would whet your appetite?

With Hythe always a popular destination, it continues to attract the crowds, which means the brasserie is always in demand and has a great local client base. Booking is always recommended on a Saturday as it can get busy, and it's happy to welcome families.

The owners say: "We offer a personal, professional service and consistently good quality food. We are genuinely passionate about our business."

The restaurant is also available for large parties who wish to book it exclusively, and the owners are happy to tailor menus to suit special occasions. It can also cater for special dietary requirements.

It is open Tuesday to Saturday for lunch between noon and 2pm and in the evening between 6.30pm-9pm.

To book, phone 01303 267912 or visit www.hythebrasserie.com.



HISTORIC: The Walpole Bay Hotel offers a slice of history and quality for all those who visit it for a delicious meal

The hotel with a famous face all set to dazzle you

FROM the moment you enter the Walpole Bay Hotel and Museum, you step back in time to the ambience of a bygone era. This historic Margate hotel was built for discerning guests in 1914 and extended in 1927 and is now being lovingly restored to her former glory by the Bishop family.

Where better, then, to enjoy a special meal?

The Walpole is a family-run hotel that strives to achieve a friendly home-from-home atmosphere combined with a warmth and timeless elegance.

From the relaxing flower-decked terrace with sea views to the Edwardian style restaurant, you will rediscover a passion for the finer things in life.

And to make your visit complete,

you can enjoy a ride in its 1927 Otis trellis gated lift servicing every floor.

It forms the centrepiece of its museum, packed with fascinating documents and displays, plus plenty of information about Thanet and all it has to offer.

If you're not familiar with the name, you may recognise it already due to its frequent use as a film location.

It has been used as a backdrop for everything from celebrity interviews to pop videos.

As a result, it has been seen on everything from MTV to Sky Sports, GMTV to the BBC.

The restaurant, bar lounge and terrace are open from 7am each day serving delicious home-cooked food.

Breakfast is served between 7am

and 9.30am and dinner between 7pm and 9pm daily.

Throughout the day it currently serve light snacks – not forgetting the famous Walpole cream teas!

Traditional Sunday luncheons, which are renowned for their quality and exceptional value, are served at 1pm, when the resident pianist begins to play the 1908 pianola.

Pre-booking is required for breakfast, dinner and Sunday lunch reservations.

The restaurant is open to non-residents as well as hotel guests.

Private parties, conferencing and functions are also expertly catered for.

Contact the restaurant's friendly staff at Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent CT9 2JJ (phone 01843 221703).

Chef Recommends

Follies

133 Sandgate Road,
Folkestone CT20 2BL
Telephone: 01303 210563
Website: www.follieskent.com

Starter: Lebanese ground lamb on hummus with flatbreads

Main: Jerk Chicken with rice n' peas or handcut chips & coleslaw

Dessert: Raspberry Mousse Cake

Best Western

Stade Court Hotel

Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6DT
Telephone: 01303 268263
Website: www.bestwestern.co.uk

Starter: Duck pâté with Cumberland sauce

Main: Roast beef

Dessert: Peach crumble, with custard and vanilla ice cream

The Walnut Tree

Forge Hill, Aldington,
Ashford TN25 7DT
Telephone: 01303 720298
Website:
www.walnuttrealdington.co.uk

Starter:

Home-made soup of the day

Main: Steak on the stone

Dessert: Gypsy tart

AJI Japanese restaurant

23 New Rent Road,
Ashford, TN23 1JJ
Telephone: 01233 638339

Starter: Sashimi salad

Main: Salmon Teriyaki

Dessert: Green tea, vanilla and sesame-seed ice cream

Carter's In Kennington

Towers School, Faversham
Road, Ashford TN24 9AL
Telephone: 01233 653530
Website:

cartersinkennington.co.uk

Starter: Down the road pheasant & port terrine encased in Parma ham, served with an apricot and quince marmalade

Main: Pan-fried-stone sea bass with a melange of tomatoes, garlic and puy lentils

Dessert: Iced choca mocha parfait of liqueur-soaked sponge fingers, with chocolate mascarpone cream

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House,
 81 Station Road, Ashford,
 TN23 1PP
Email:
 editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter:
 @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

The death of this abused high street

I WOULD like to speak up on behalf of the downtrodden, put-upon, bruised and abused of Maidstone.

Yes, our poor old high street. Some £2 million of bricks dropped higgledy-piggledy; kerbs 10 inches high causing pensioners to trip; stupidly making the road too narrow, paths too wide; dodgy chicanes; and then large block-seating placed strategically kerbside so tired pedestrians get the maximum blast of diesel exhaust fumes.

Within a month, bits of paving dug up and replaced with black pox-scars of tarmac – not a pretty sight.

Last week, around lunchtime, a van was stopped on the high street.

I counted 10 buses stacked up between Mill Street and Gabriel's Hill. The traffic was going nowhere; three buses were bragging 'Sorry, Not in Service', wantonly cluttering, polluting and killing the high street.

Most people know the Mall bus station is awful, dated and in the wrong place. There has been a suggestion to move it to the other side of the road. This would be a mistake; it would make matters worse by increasing traffic on both King Street and High Street.

The suggestion to move the bus station close to Maidstone East railway – the old Post Office site – is the better option. It would be central to any new development, it would link up public transport and be closer to Fremelin Walk and the supermarkets.

Save High Street and King Street – don't let bus traffic strangle and suffocate them to death.

Anthony Lang, Sandling

Spitfire Museum needs its dignity

IT WAS sad to see the Spitfire Museum being so grateful for the gift of the freehold to the land on which it stands.

Staff would best remember why they are there in the first place.

While they have done an excellent job, if they had any backbone they would say that, no, the appropriate site for the Museum to the Battle of Britain is not in the middle of a non-descript housing estate.

They should move these magnificent machines and the story of the men who built and flew them to the now more dignified site at Capel-le-Ferne.

After all, this is the greatest story ever told.

Mike Thompson, by email

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Privatisation... the magic savings plan

IN a recent editorial (KoS 12/10), there was a homily on relying less on credit and more on thrift, to keep personal and national budgets in balance.

All very straightforward and sensible, except real economies don't function in this manner.

If government cuts back expenditure too severely, household expenditure will drop away much further.

Investment and productivity falls, depleting tax revenues, so further cuts have to be made.

This is happening now, but worse may follow if the demon of deflation is allowed to develop – and there are signs this is starting to happen around the world. In this scenario, prices and wages fall in a spiral of destruction.

By cutting £200 million out of the county's economy, Kent County Council is adding to this impetus.

Councillor Paul Carter assures us, however, that service standards will not fall, but the truth of that statement can only be tested several years on in the future.

How is this virtuous economy

to be made? Why... by privatisation, of course!

What is this magic mechanism that can deliver KCC a balanced budget without evident pain?

Councils are by their nature labour-intensive organisations; by transferring that liability to a service company you can show immediate savings and at the same time create a convenient scapegoat for any failures of service.

The service company will cut manpower and conditions of service to create the savings and derive sufficient profit for shareholders.

Finally, not only is £200m lost to the local economy in the original saving but additional losses are accrued in pruning costs still further to meet the new company's objectives and by remitting those profits elsewhere.

I would propose to government and KCC that austerity must be balanced with an eye to the revenue side of the budget and that minimal government may be popular with some but not if key services suffer as a result.

GA Nokes, by email

Manston is the obvious answer

NOW that Boris Island has been put into the long grass, what are the alternatives?

Gatwick and Heathrow are subject to daily delays on the motorways, so

why not develop Manston?

It has reasonable infrastructure with a high-speed rail link promised. It should be reopened as a freight airport. The Government could declare it an enterprise zone with tax incentives too. It would supply permanent jobs to Thanet, which is in need of these.

As for housing on the site, who

could afford them? Only Londoners moving out to commute back. What would this do for Thanet?

Brian Rust, Harrietsham

Let's consider our own people first

WHY is it so difficult for those like Kevin Butcher (KoS, letters, last week) to understand that being against 240,000 people a year being crammed into a country with only 0.16 per cent of the world's land mass doesn't have to indicate a total unacceptance of immigration?

We take in foreign criminals and terrorists, funding them and their families, while expecting the indigenous population to conform to their special requirements.

Recent housing problems, school overloading and serious concerns by NHS staff over how they're going to manage are obviously of little concern to Mr Butcher and one has to wonder at his motives and lack of concern for the people already here.

Phil Granger, West Malling

We remember tragic Joele

IT IS a year after the brutal assault on Italians Joele Leotta and Alex Galbiati, who both left Italy to find work and improve their English in Maidstone.

After that tragic Sunday night in October 2013, the three people responsible for Joele's death and Alex Galbiati's assault were finally found guilty of murder for their vicious attack on the two young men.

However, it was not clear whether the violence was caused by a complaint regarding the attackers' loud noises from the flat above Leotta and Galbiati's room, both situated above the Italian restaurant in Maidstone where the Italians worked, or whether the violence was caused by the fact that the two Italian workers had found jobs at the restaurant where some of the attackers previously worked.

We sadly remember Joele Leotta's tragic death in the same way Joele's parents remembered their son during the trial in Maidstone:

"Nobody can see the pain we carry inside ourselves. He did not deserve something so ugly to happen to him. Joele will no longer be able to taste or smell, see, feel pain or feel joy and live his life.

"He would never sow hatred, violence or cowardice."

Alain Fissore,

Partito Comunista, British branch

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline "Inspiring Communities".

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles: **Kent on Sunday will:**

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between

news, comment and advertising.

- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.



Singleton Hill by Max Bazzucchini from Ashford

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any-duration **Dover-Calais return crossing** for a car and up to five passengers, valid for a year, courtesy of...



To see your photograph printed, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk, or post it to **Archant KOS Media, Images of Kent, Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.



Longfield Campus

Post 16 Open Evening
6th November 2014
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Kent DA3 7PH Tel: 01474 700 700
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Women Seeking

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PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 409991

WIDOW 70-75, lonely, seeking gent. 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1917 Box No: 408297

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

CARLY, 25yrs, and v naughty seeks man for discreet fun. My job includes travel so anywhere is fine for me. Tel No: 0905 002 1921 Box No: 350727

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTm not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1925 Box No: 408291

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTm likeminded caring, happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169

LINDY, 43yrs young, married with husband away. Seeks discreet gent any age/area for no strings. Box No: 4459439 Text only

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053

JENNI, sensual lady, 23yrs seeks mature experienced man for no strings, daytime fun. Box No: 4459440 Text only

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049

JAMES, 45yrs, solvent caring gent, recently divorced seeks genuine lady to wine and dine. Single mums welcome. Box No: 4459441 Text only

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129

SAMANTHA, solvent, sensual business woman, 38yrs, travels a lot and seeks fun on the road. I'm married so please be discreet. Box No: 4459559 Text only

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045

JASMINE, 22yrs, seeks older gent for daytime meetings as she works a nightshift most days. Box No: 4459860 Text only

BLONDE pretty, long legged, voluptuous, blue eyes, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410585

JAN 38yr old attractive lonely female looking for uncomplicated fun times only. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409107

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871

FIONA, young 32yrs, seeks uncomplicated fun with chap any age or area, texts only please, I'm nervous on the phone. Box No: 4495861 Text Only

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTm similar fun genuine guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTm someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033

64YR old lady, seeking male for friendship, companionship, outings and interesting conversation. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411975

CAROLINE 39yr old pretty blonde looking for handsome caring man to put the sparkle back into my life and make each other feel special. Call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411891

33YR old sick of being single working mum, OHAC, likes the simple things in life, looking for romantic, honest guy with GSOH for cosy nights in and fun nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411887

CINDY 31 attractive, size 12 brown eyed blonde, new to this but sick of passing up potential soul mate so thought I'd give it a go. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411873

RITA divorced care worker with no ties, 5ft 1ins, dark hair, enjoys meals out, cosy nights in, seeking male 45-55 with GSOH and similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411775

JANET 5ft 8ins, slim 12, pretty, green eyes, brown hair, seeking male companion for friendship hopefully leading to a relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411689

MELANIE tall curvy attractive bubbly female who loves meals out, cosy nights in with a nice wine, walking, seeks professional male with outgoing GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411509

LYN 34yrs, pretty petite dark haired female, loves music, meals out, quiet drinks out, seeking caring male with GSOH who can make me feel special again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410137

CAROLINE blonde curvy very active lady who loves to socialise, countryside, seeking similar caring male for LTR and to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409413

RACHEL 39, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 6ins, bubbly, outgoing, naughty, busty, divorced, seeks male for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410835

SUE optimistic divorced lady with OHAC, good job, enjoys meals out, cinema, countryside, pub lunches, looking for likeminded outgoing happy male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410467

CATHY very much a lady seeks gent up to 62yrs who would appreciate an independent professional sassy female who loves to be wined, dined and romanced. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410301

WOULD you like to bounce into spring with me and onwards? Widow late 60s, enjoy most things in life, looking for someone to enjoy them with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411395

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras.

mydate24

MALE 60yr single tall, slim, not working, smoker, enjoys a drink, seeks nice lady 50-60. Text only. Mailbox Box No: 4397689

JAMES young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship, Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever, NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

MALE 71, 5ft 10ins, medium build, N/S, likes gardening, dogs, seeks friendship/companionship and outings. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411587

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611

DAVE 50, seeks female of similar age for meals out, holidays etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408415

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441

SUSAN seeking nice male, medium build, 35, easygoing, likes music, nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 406779

MARIE 37yrs slim attractive caring, likes meals in/out, cinema, tennis, keeping fit/ active, WLTm fun loving, reliable man for friendship leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411037

SOPHIE 27yr old nursing assistant with no ties looking for discreet adult fun times with tall attractive guy 35-42yrs, GSOH essential. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410717

34YR single mum of 1 who loves nights out having a good time seeks similar sociable fun guy to enjoy relaxed but extremely fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410709

BUSTY Caribbean lady who loves music, dance and singing, looking for nice older guy for mutual adult no strings fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410305

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50s, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409663

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easygoing female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50s, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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SEVEN UP FIRST: The current Ceed's predecessor launched Kia's so-far unbeaten seven-year warranty



Kia well suited to lucky seven

The power of seven has worked for the Korean marque, which has moved from value brand to mainstream star... with aspirations, writes **Steve Loader**

If seven truly is a lucky number, then it's worked well for Kia.

It was 2007 that the Korean car-maker turned away from its apparent destiny as a value brand and launched the original Ceed – an impressive family hatchback.

The same car also heralded Kia's as yet unsurpassed seven-year/100,000-mile warranty and was the first in which the then newly-appointed German design supremo Peter Schreyer had some input.

What we knew at the time was how Schreyer influenced the original Audi TT. What we didn't know was how little he was able to change the original Ceed: it was good, but what followed has been far more than that...

Cars like the current Sportage, a racy SUV that has transformed Kia's image and recruited new customers.

Then there's the latest Ceed, a genuinely good-looking car, in five-door family hatch, Sportwagon estate or sporty three-door Proceed coupé mode.

Another star is the quirky Soul, described variously as urban crossover, chunky MPV and family

holdall; now in its second generation, it is also about to be the 'vehicle' for Kia's first venture into the UK electric-car market – another sign of the Korean brand's ambition.

Arriving soon, the car is tipped to be aggressively priced at about £18,000 – helped by the £5,000 Government grant for electric cars – and offer a range of some 120 miles.

Laudable though this is, the brand's new-found status as more than a value brand has been won by desirable conventionally-powered cars: Kia has just posted its best-ever September volume (13,292 cars) to take 2014 sales to 62,538 at that point and keep the brand on target for a record 78,000 units this year.

The Sportage is its best-seller, followed by the Picanto city car, Ceed, Rio supermini and Venga junior MPV.



COMING SOON: The all-electric Kia Soul EV, left, is joining good company with the Sportage SUV, Kia's favourite car, and the Picanto, the car-maker's most junior car but one of its best-sellers, pictured bottom

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1.4 CRDi 1 5dr 9,000 miles

£7,900



61 Reg MG Motor UK MG6 GT
Hatchback 1.8T S 5dr 28,500 miles

£6,442



07 Reg MINI Hatchback 1.6 Cooper
3dr Auto 47,215 miles

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£7,271



13 Reg Vauxhall Insignia Hatchback
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11 Reg Vauxhall Zafira Estate 1.8i
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£7,522



61 Reg Volkswagen Polo Hatchback
1.2 60 Match 3dr 30,723 miles

£7,721



10 Reg Ford Ka Hatchback 1.2
Zetec 3dr 15,859 miles

£5,831



13 13

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Representative Example

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Amount
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Total Amount
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TRYING to avoid the old gas-guzzling image of SUVs or pseudo off-roaders, Honda veered off the road with the previous CR-V.

It looked like a pumped-up family hatchback, neither elegant nor particularly practical.

But the Japanese marque Brits love to love – with key models built at Swindon and perennial star billing in customer satisfaction and reliability polls – produced a crowd-pleasing fourth-generation car.

It is both stylish and practical: a thoroughly modern SUV to rival the Mazda CX-5, Hyundai Sante Fe and German premium models.

Its high-riding SUV stance belies easy access to both the cabin and boot, the latter being one of the biggest in this class and sitting at a particularly handy height, with load-cramming aided by easy-flip back seats and – standard on high-spec models – a powered tailgate.

And it's a sign of the CR-V's prestige in the marketplace that flagship EX trim is the most popular,

Honda's SUV crowd-pleaser

Fourth generation of Honda's British-built premium SUV choice is the best version yet and will definitely take the fight to its upmarket German rivals, believes **Steve Loader**

though this year also saw the launch of value-added Black and White special editions (from £27,405).

We tested a White with Honda's renowned and smooth 150bhp 2.2-litre diesel manual engine, though do check out the front-wheel-drive-only 120bhp 1.6-litre diesel CR-V models – it's a terrific little engine offering a tempting balance of power and economy even if you are foregoing all-wheel-drive versatility.

But the first CR-V was one of the original 'soft-roaders' and current 4x4 versions remain capable on slippery and muddy surfaces, even if

ground clearance is modest. Black and White models are all 4x4 and come laden with extras said to be worth about £800, including 19-inch alloys, chrome exhaust finisher, privacy glass, tailgate spoiler, dual-zone climate control, front and rear parking sensors, plus front and rear skid plates, body kit and blingy running boards – all clearly designed to counter perceptions that the CR-V is pricey against rivals.

But such views overlook the car's in-built ownership value: the CR-V feels well made and safe, with modest running costs for this class and

Honda reliability built-in; 2.2 i-DTEC versions of the CR-V were named 'Most Reliable SUV' in the annual Which? Car Survey this year.

The cabin is not showy, but there's real longevity in the finish and materials, plus an excellent driving position and good views out.

The latest CR-V also balances refinement, handling and comfort far better than the previous version; nobody really buys an SUV and expects GTi handling, but the CR-V holds the corners well without leaning as before, while ride quality is better damped and only

Honda CR-V

Price:	from £22,100
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Mazda CX-5

occasionally crashy on winter-scarred rural roads.

And a big 'Econ' button on the dashboard helps keep you sensible on fuel consumption by making use of stop/start and an economy gearshift indicator.

Steal

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Vans driving UK PLC recovery

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

VAN sales rose 13 per cent last year and show no sign of running out of steam this year – latest figures show them almost 20 per cent ahead of 2013.

This can only be good news for UK PLC, signalling confidence and sustainable recovery in the UK economy as a whole, with vans oiling the wheels of British business, construction and manufacturing.

However, the strength of the upturn also shows how low the country plunged during the recession, with van-operators retaining and punishing vehicles by clocking more miles than they would normally.

As a result, the used-van market is full of tired stock, further fuelling the strong bounce-back in the new-vehicle market, which gained further boosts from reg-plate changes in March and September.

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the industry's mouthpiece, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "With businesses feeling increased economic confidence and downsizing from larger vehicles, the van market has delivered another strong performance.

"This has also yielded growth in the whole commercial-vehicle market, continuing the positivity seen throughout



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Commercial Vehicles



SMART CHOICE? Compact and stylish Fiat Fiorino Sportivo or midsize Peugeot Expert, below

What to spec and what not to spec

YOU are homing in on your choice of new van, but what specification do you need – not just for you, but to maximise its value when you come to sell?

British Car Auctions (BCA) knows a thing or two about what van-buyers want to buy, particularly the thousands of small enterprises that use vans.

Spokesman Duncan Ward said: "A van is a working tool, so getting the right specification for the job is a given. Equally, getting the right added extras will make any van more attractive to used-buyers a few years down the line when it is time to sell.

"Generally a better specification will make a van more desirable and saleable, with higher-spec vehicles often selling more quickly, improving cash flow for the seller.

"Interior ply-lining is one of the best value extras for any van-buyer. It's expected by buyers and, importantly, it protects valuable company vehicles from 'inside-out' damage that is likely to occur day-to-day.

"Value-wise, ply-lining might add £100, but the real benefit is that the van is much more likely to be in a more saleable condition after three or four years' hard work."

Side-loading doors are another key consideration for buyers – they are considered just as essential for smaller vans as larger ones and 3.5-tonne vehicles.

BCA says a van should at least have a single nearside sliding door, but two side-loading doors are particularly appealing for use in tight, urban conditions.

On the other hand, a factory-fitted sat nav has become less desirable because most smartphones can now offer this facility.

Inside the cab, air-conditioning is highly valued, especially when combined with a bulkhead, otherwise all that cool air dissipates into the load area and simply burns money.

Similarly, if a van is needed for start-stop urban deliveries, air-con is considered wasteful because the driver will be in and out of the cab and not getting the benefit.

The reverse applies for vans that do longer distances or where they double as family transport at the weekends.

"As confidence improves in the UK economy, many small businesses will be investing in their company transport and looking to get the best value for money," said Ward.

"This may mean spending a bit more up front to get the best resale value down the line."



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Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels • 4 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin-bed outside cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, choice of 2 Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

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Mr & Mrs Kennedy

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Mrs Church

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Price includes: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels • 3 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin-bed outside cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, choice of 2 Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad



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Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
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An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 –
"a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Part time Finance Assistant Required

Grade: D2 – Salary: £15,189 - £19,317 per annum (Full time equivalent)

Hours: 30 hours a week term time plus 5 days pro-rata (£10,493 - £13,345)

We require a Finance Assistant to work closely with the Assistant Business Manager at this highly successful grammar school.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office essential and using PS Financials accounting software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School has recently been designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools, has achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in its provision of CPD and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 29th October 2014

Interviews will take place week beginning – 3rd November 2014



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Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, The North School, Westlands Primary School, Regis Manor Primary School and South Borough Primary School

School Direct Teacher Training for the 2015/16 Academic Year

Swale Academies Trust, working in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, invites high quality graduates interested in a career in teaching to consider the School Direct Training Programme 2015/16. We have places available under both School Direct training routes, some salaried and some which may be eligible for a training bursary or scholarship, subject to status.

Information about training and the application process is available on our website:
www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk

Swale Academies Trust has an excellent reputation for high quality teacher training within a friendly and supportive environment. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate time. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. Westlands School, the lead training school, is an outstanding school as recognised by Ofsted and has recently been awarded Teaching School status.

For preliminary enquiries please email the Staff Development Leader at schooldirect@westlands.kent.sch.uk.

Only applications made through UCAS Teacher Training, www.ucas.com/teacher-training will be accepted.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All staff are subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732 Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS



Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Outpatients/Pre-Assessment) – Margate

Part time Hours: 22.5 per week Closing date: 07/11/2014

Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience

- Registered Nurse 1st level or Dual Trained Registered Nurse
- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 07925 978812

For a job description and application form please visit

www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Emily Fraser, HR Assistant

Telephone: 01304 245951

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.



Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College, Meopham School, Westlands Primary School and Regis Manor Primary School

Interested in Becoming a School Governor?



Swale Academies Trust is a multi-academy Trust comprising of 3 secondary and 2 primary schools. The Trust also supports a number of other schools. We are looking to recruit new governors with a range of skills to join our local governing bodies.


We can offer comprehensive training and support and the opportunity to work with experienced governors as part of the team and in the best interests of the Trust schools and pupils. You will bring a wide range of experience and skills to the role and be able to contribute your opinions to the discussions of the governing body. You will need time and commitment to attend approximately 6 committee meetings per year, an interest in education and a willingness to learn.

If you are interested, we would be pleased to hear from you. Let us know your reasons for wanting to become a governor, including details of the personal qualities, experience and skills you could bring to the role. Letters of application should be sent to the Trust Governance Officer, Swale Academies Trust, Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732
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ABBEY COURT SCHOOL teaches pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 and 19. The school is based on 2 sites in Rainham (Nursery and Primary), and Strood (Secondary and Further Education)

Itinerary for the morning.....

- SCHOOL VIDEO**
An insight into who we are.
- ALL ABOUT US**
A tour of the school and presentation .
- DIFFERENTIATED CURRICULUM**
A presentation on how our teaching and learning is differentiated to meet the special needs of our pupils.
- WHAT NEXT?**
Questions and answers.

This school is committed to self-improving, and promoting the welfare of children and young people. We expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment must be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Barring Service certificate.

Calling all Teachers!

Have you thought of widening your experience working with Special Educational Needs pupils?


Would you like to find out more about supply opportunities?

Why not come along to our Taster morning and discover more about working in a special school.....

Thursday 6th November
10am to 1pm
Abbey Court School, Long Catlis Road, Rainham, Kent ME8 9TX

To reserve a **free** place, telephone the school on 01634 338220, or e-mail office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk by Friday 31st October.

EMLC:



Assessors

Required (Freelance)

EMLC is a national leadership charity with a large national contract to assess Middle and Senior leaders and Aspiring Head teachers in schools and academies across England.

We are looking to increase our pool of freelance assessors who can assess the Middle and Senior leader qualification; you will need experience in assessing evidence against criteria.

If you are interested in the Aspiring Head Teachers qualification you will need to be a serving Head Teacher or have Headship experience.

This role is home based.

There are 6-8 assessment windows across the year and you would be required to undertake a minimum of 15 assessments in each window.

For further details and an application pack and role specification please contact Rhian Thomas at rhian.thomas@emlc.co.uk.

The closing date for applications is Friday 14th November 2014.

Please visit our website for further information about us: www.emlc.co.uk

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Winter Gardens, Margate

Chef £22 - 24K

We seek a qualified and talented Chef to join our skilled team. This will be an ideal opportunity for someone to widen their experience and skills in one of East Kent's premier catering venues. The Chef would be involved in providing an extensive range of menus from 10-700 persons.

The successful candidate will have:

- City and Guilds 706/1 and 706/2 or NVQ Level 2 in Catering or equivalent
- Basic food hygiene certificate
- Full driving licence
- Previous experience of working in a busy catering environment
- Able to work quickly and calmly under pressure
- Flexible approach to work as will be required to work evenings and weekends

Assistant Food and Beverage Manager £22 - 24K

Applicants must have at least 2 years operational experience gained within a busy, high standard food and beverage environment. Able to demonstrate extensive bar and catering management experience, quality customer service, team leadership and effective communication skills the successful candidate will have a working knowledge of health, safety and hygiene (ideally qualified in support of these requirements) and a full driving license.



Theatre Royal, Margate
Internship opportunities

Please check website www.yourleisure.uk.com or call 01843 868302 to register your details.

Closing Date:
Monday 3rd November 2014

BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DUE TO EXPANDING OUR PROVISION WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESIDENTIAL CARE VACANCIES:

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER

To assist the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. To manage the administration of the team.

To take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager

£23,188 - £25,727 pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends)
Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in childcare teams mornings, evenings and weekends.

These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,013 - £14,880 plus 10% pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends)
Term time only, plus 2 weeks *

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends.

No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,286 - £11,784 plus 10% pa - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends - more hours available) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

To provide additional support a cover within either the classrooms or residences.

Flexi-bank - £7.26 per hour - When required (up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**


For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk.

Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm, Thursday 6th November 2014



Thamesview SCHOOL
with Rainham and Strood sites
Headteacher: Mr Henry Ingham MA

Progress Manager

37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 8
£23,753.00 - £27,222.00 per annum
Pro rata to £20,044.00 - £22,971.00

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Progress Managers to provide key administrative, welfare and progress development support for a Community Leader.

The ideal applicant...

- will relate well to students
- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with outside agencies, staff and students
- will be confident to work independently and multi task in a range of areas
- will be committed to the vision of cross-subject learning
- will have a cheerful disposition, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team
- will demonstrate effective examples of initiatives they have developed in a school to date

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 28th October 2014, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 3rd November 2014
Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).
Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy


Number on roll: 740

Type of School: 11- 16 Mixed High School

Salary: Thamesview Qualified Teacher Scale

Closing date: 28th October, 9.00 am

Interviews: w/c 3rd November



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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff

DEPUTY THEATRE LIAISON MANAGER - MARGATE

Full Time - Hours: 37.5 - Salary: £34K - £38K

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Five years relevant experience in Theatre
- Evidence of Continual Professional Development
- Experience of managing a team
- Sound knowledge of Clinical Governance and Risk Management
- A working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements
- Ability to manage a Theatre department

ENDOSCOPY MANAGER - MARGATE

Full Time (Part Time Considered) - Hours: 37.5

Salary: £30K - £36K pa or pro rata for part-time

- Registered Nurse Part 1 or equivalent ODP qualification
- In depth knowledge of CFPP 01-06
- Knowledge of GRS/JAG Accreditation
- Two years experience in Managerial Endoscopy role
- Skilled in all endoscopy procedures and processes
- A Working knowledge of CQC regulations and requirements

ENDOSCOPY PRACTITIONERS (RGN/ODP) - MARGATE

Full or Part time - Hours: Various - Salary: £25,000 pa or pro rata for part time

We are looking for enthusiastic, experienced, highly motivated endoscopy staff at all levels, with a flexible approach to working. Hours will include evenings and weekends

- Registered Nurse or Operating Department Practitioner
- Relevant experience working in an Endoscopy Unit
- Knowledge of research and evidence-based practice
- Experienced in Recovery and Anaesthetics
- Skilled in scope cleaning and decontamination processes
- Able to assist in therapeutic procedures
- Data collection ICT skills
- Ability to assess, plan and evaluate patient care

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Vicky Smith, Quality Assurance, Lead Nurse on 07477 823969

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL THE ABOVE POSITIONS - 07/11/2014

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Alternatively, please contact Emily Fraser, HR Assistant telephone: 01304 245951

E-mail: recruitment@spencerhospitals.com

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PLANNING



**THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010**

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/1103/SH - Lambourne Lympe Castle The Street Lympe Hythe Kent - Section 73 application for variation of condition 3 of planning permission Y14/0597/SH to change the opening times of the Bistrot/cookery school.

Y14/1177/SH+ - 9 North Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DS - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising: crown reduction of two Horse Chestnuts by reducing the height by a maximum of 5 metres and the laterals by a maximum of 2 metres, and 2 metre overall crown reduction of a Holly.

Y14/1176/SH+ - The Old Rectory Rectory Lane Saltwood Hythe Kent - Felling of an Ash tree situated within a conservation area

Y14/1118/SH - The Folkestone School For Girls Cooling Lane Folkestone Kent CT20 3RB - Erection of a sports hall, together with formation of an all weather sports pitch.

Y14/1148/SH - 5 Rendezvous Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1EY - Change of use of existing retail unit (Class A1) to a themed tea rooms and cocktail bar (Classes A3 and A4)

Y14/1175/SH+ - Malthouse Arcade Malthouse Hill Hythe Kent CT21 5BW - Reduction in height by 4-5 metres of a Willow tree situated within a conservation area

Y14/1088/SH - 11 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3BD - Change of use and conversion of first and second floors to 3 No. self contained flats together with external alterations.

Y14/1155/SH - 69 Brockhill Road Hythe Kent CT21 4AG - Outline application (with all matters reserved) for the erection of a detached dwelling house, following demolition of existing bungalow.

Y14/1068/SH - Howletts & Port Lympe Wild Animal Parks Port Lympe Aldington Road Lympe Hythe Kent - Section 73 application to vary/remove conditions 2, 3, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24, and 25 of planning permission Y13/1234/SH in relation to the erection of 10 tree house holiday units and a welcome building, together with formation of an access track.

Y14/1052/SH - 18 - 24 The Old High Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1RL - Listed Building Consent for the partial demolition and rebuild of front elevation (1st floor level).

Y14/1146/SH - Old Robus Canterbury Road Lympe Folkestone Kent - Listed Building Consent for removal of part wall; erection of new partition wall to form shower room/WC; removal of existing and erection of new partition wall; blocking of door and installation of new lintel to existing window, all to ground floor. Sunpipe with velux window.

Y14/1151/SH - Stoneacre Farm Stone Street Stelling Minnis Canterbury Kent - Change of use of land for the keeping of horses and erection of a block of five stables, tack room and store.

Y14/1174/SH - Briar Bank The Row Elham Canterbury Kent - Crown reduction back to previous pruning points of a Sycamore tree situated within a conservation area

Y14/1127/SH - Ship Inn 65 Sandgate High Street And Parade Cottage, Granville Parade Sandgate Folkestone Kent - Change of use and conversion of shop (Class A1) to Public House (Class A4) [as an extension of Public House use at 65 High Street]

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003**

An application has been made by:
TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL for the premises **ASSEMBLY HALL THEATRE, CRESCENT ROAD, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT, TN1 2LU**

On the date of: **26th October 2014**

Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening:

For SALE OF ALCOHOL

Currently MONDAY – SUNDAY EVERY DAY FROM 13:00 – 23:00 proposed to extend until 24:00 (Midnight)

Seasonal Variation

CHRISTMAS DAY FROM 12.00 – 15.00 AND FROM 19.00 UNTIL 23.30

GOOD FRIDAY FROM 12.00 UNTIL 23.30

NEW YEARS EVE FROM 12.00 UNTIL NEW YEARS DAY 01.00

Thereafter standard licensing hours.

Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004

Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the : 23rd November 2014

Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP

licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk

<http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing>

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

**LICENSING ACT 2003
Grant of PREMISES LICENCE**

Notice is hereby given that Mayur Patel has applied to Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council for the grant of a new Premises Licence for Bronsdons, 143 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1DH for the following licensable activities:

The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises only 05:00hours to 23:00hours Monday to Sunday
Any person wishing to view details of the variation can contact the licensing team on 01732 876368.

Any person or responsible authority wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: Licensing Service, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ. Email: licensing.services@tmhc.gov.uk giving in detail the grounds of objection by 12th November 2014

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.



Sick of champagne but still riding high on historic win

'Shakey' Byrne has become the first man to win four British Superbikes titles. He speaks with **Jamie Weir**.

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne rode into the history books on Sunday last week as he took two chequered flags at Brands Hatch to win his fourth title in the British Superbikes championship.

But, after crashing out in spectacular style during the previous day's race, he thought it was all over before it had even started.

He told KoS: "Winning with a double race win on the Sunday was absolutely amazing.

"It was made even better due to the fact I crashed on Saturday. I've had four crashes all season and three of them have come in exactly the same conditions as the one on Saturday.

"After that, I just kept thinking that the weather needed to clear up for Sunday. It did and it was incredible to take the two wins on Sunday."

This victory seems to have meant more to Shakey than previous ones as he told KoS that when he took his third title in 2012 the chequered flag only elated him for mere seconds before he realised there was more to do.

He said: "That feeling of joy after my 2012 win only lasted the distance

of the back strait at Brands Hatch, and that isn't very long at all.

"The problem was, while riding down it, I realised that all I had done was match Kiyo. All I wanted at that point was to beat him."

And beat him he has, with his Japanese rival Ryuichi Kiyonari having been crowned champion 'only' three times.

Going into the weekend's contest, billed the War for Four, the pair were jousting for supremacy, with both on three championship wins and both gunning to become the first rider in history to win four titles.

In the event, Kiyonari was injured in practice and didn't make any of the races. Shakey still had a job to do, however.

He said: "It was brilliant to become the first man to do this. When you win your first title, the feeling is indescribable – and then you win your second, which proves you're not just a fluke.

"But taking four was something special because I'm the only man to have done it."



A LIVING LEGEND: Shakey rode into the history books in some style

The win was made even better for Shakey as it was in front of a huge home crowd at Brands Hatch.

He said: "It was brilliant to take this at my home track. I absolutely love Brands Hatch as a track that I hold close to my heart and I love living in Kent. That just made it even more memorable for me."

And now that the win is in the bag, has it left Shakey feeling satisfied with his superbike career?

Most certainly not, according to the motorsport legend.

"No, I just want to get back out there and see if I can win a fifth, sixth or seventh title. That's what I want to fight for," said Shakey.

"It seems odd to be talking of retirement because I've just won a championship. I'm riding great and absolutely loving what I do.

"Right now, the racing is amazing and the fact that I'm in a good team and on a great bike, I just want to fight for more wins.

"What I will say is that I don't want my riding to fizzle out. I reckon I have about seven more years in me, but I don't want to end up lingering if I'm not being competitive any more."

Despite Shakey talking of his enjoyment of riding for his team, Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki, rumours circulate about a move for the champ.

But Shakey remained tight-lipped on the subject when asked whether he was looking to move.

He said: "I'd be lying if I said I was unhappy where I am, because I'm not.

"What I will say, and this doesn't mean I'm looking to move, is that I'm always looking for fresh challenges with my riding.

"It's always good to push yourself and I like taking on new challenges. If I found something that really attracted me and offered a more competitive ride, I would definitely have to think about things more closely."

But for the time being, Shakey seems to be happy enjoying the warm glow of success... although he does seem to be getting sick of some parts of it already.

He said: "I've had so much champagne over the past few days I don't know whether I want to see another glass of the stuff.

"There was so much of the stuff on Sunday, I think I'd be happy to never see another glass."

Unfortunately for him, as the undisputed champion of British Superbikes, it seems certain that Shakey's set to see a lot more fizz in the future.



PITCHING IN: Joe Denly will be playing his cricket for Kent next year after three seasons with Middlesex

Denly returns 'home' to Spitfire Ground... and to captain Key

BATSMAN Joe Denly is returning to play his cricket for Kent next season, having agreed to end his time with Middlesex a year early.

The Canterbury-born cricketer and Kent Cricket Academy graduate left Kent in September 2011 for the Lord's club but says he is now looking forward to life back at The Spitfire Ground, St Lawrence.

"It's great to be coming home," he told the Kent Cricket website. "As I said at the time, it was a difficult decision to leave Kent, but I don't regret the experience I had at Middlesex.

"I'm leaving a very good club with great people, from the back-room staff, team and management, and wish them all the very best, but now feels like a great time to return.

"There's a lot of familiar faces still here and plenty of talent coming through from the academy and I'm looking forward to helping them in any way I can and help build a successful future."

The right-hander is a graduate from the original Kent Cricket Academy intake and made his Kent debut aged 18 in 2004.

He was the first Kent scholar to play first-class cricket and made the step up to international cricket, playing nine One-Day Internationals and five T20s for England in 2009-10.

Denly, 28, says an international recall is not in his thoughts as he focuses on the new season for Kent.

He said: "Every player dreams of playing for their country and I'm proud to have done that, but I need to focus on making runs at county level and earning my place in the Kent team first."

Denly has scored almost 7,000 first-class runs at an average of 33.1 and was the first Canterbury-born player to be capped for Kent.

Kent's chairman of cricket Graham Johnson said: "I remember when Joe decided to leave the club we talked about his possible return to Kent.

"As a player who had come through our development system all the way up to represent England, he has kept his Kent roots. "It is always disappointing when the signing of a good player and man fails to turn out as you hoped and, sadly, this has been the case with Joe.

"That such a return has been possible says much about the potential of the club right now and is also, in no small measure, a tribute to the way two county clubs can work together for the betterment of the game as a whole. "My thanks go out to Middlesex in what they have done to make this move possible."

Middlesex managing director of cricket Angus Fraser told the BBC: "It is always disappointing when the signing of a good player and man fails to turn out as you hoped and, sadly, this has been the case with Joe.

"In the three seasons Joe has spent with Middlesex we have witnessed glimpses of what he is capable of producing but, frustratingly, these displays have not come around as often as everyone wanted."

And in a week of big announcements, the club revealed that Rob Key will be Kent's captain again next season.

"I am delighted to be reappointed Kent captain for 2015. It is an honour to lead the club at such an exciting time on and off the field," he said.

"The young lads coming through our academy are playing an increasing role and it's great to see Kentish guys Adam Riley and Sam Billings get England recognition this winter and I hope there's a few more in contention in our dressing room."

He was appointed captain in 2006 and led the county to a Twenty20 Cup triumph at Edgbaston in 2008.

After seven years as skipper, the opener stood down in 2012 to allow James Tredwell to take over for a season before returning to the role in 2014.

Kent head coach Jimmy Adams has also extended his contract with the club, while Australia-born batsman Brendan Nash will be back for another season at St Lawrence.

Gillingham lose fourth game in five but Taylor stays calm

GILLINGHAM boss Peter Taylor took a balanced view of his side's 1-0 defeat to Preston North End on Tuesday, a result that left his side separated from the relegation zone only by goal difference.

"I thought for an hour we were very good – a very good first half and unlucky to not score a couple of goals and I think Preston are certainly one of the favourites for automatic promotion," he told the club website.

"The only thing I can ever ask of the players is to make sure they work extremely hard for each other and have a go at the things that we talk about, and they did that."

The defeat was Gillingham's fourth in five Sky Bet League One matches, the only break in the losing run being a battling 1-1 draw away to Rochdale.



DEFEATS: Peter Taylor



SAVING GRACE: Chris Douglas

Cut the abuse, Ebbsfleet tell their fans

EBBSFLEET United have warned their supporters that they will not tolerate aggressive behaviour towards players and club officials following incidents during the 1-1 draw at Hemel Hempstead.

A statement from vice-chairman Peter Varney read: "The behaviour of a small minority of fans at Hemel Hempstead on Saturday was unacceptable.

"We fully respect the right of any supporter to criticise and to air their opinions good and bad.

"What we will not tolerate is officials and players being subjected to supporters approaching them in an aggressive way using foul and abusive language.

"I have said on many occasions that our supporters have a vital role to play in helping us achieve our ambitions, but this small minority is creating a negative atmosphere at away matches.

"All of us are very approachable and happy to have any discussion with supporters at any time.

"It is particularly sad to see players feeling unable to acknowledge our own fans at the final whistle.

"I would urge those involved to stop this behaviour to avoid the need for any further action."

Ebbsfleet occupy fourth place in Conference South, six points behind leaders Basingstoke Town.

Huska stars in Dynamos' 13-goal romp

INVICTA Dynamos romped to a 13-3 win over London Raiders in the NIHL Southern Cup on Sunday night at the Silver Blades ice-rink in Gillingham.

Juraj Huska scored five goals to secure the man-of-the-match award, having claimed eight points with those goals and three assists.

Dynamos are top of their three-team cup group, having won all three of their fixtures (Streatham Redskins are the other side in it).

The teams will play each other twice, on a home-and-away basis. The two highest-placed sides will then progress to the NIHL Southern Cup semi-finals.

Dynamos are in seventh place in NIHL South Division 1.

Truck-racing finale heads for Brands

BRANDS Hatch hosts the British Truck Racing Championship finale next month, accompanied by a huge fireworks display, family entertainment and monster truck rides.

Tickets for the event, on Sunday, November 2, cost £18 in advance (free for children aged 12 and under).

Phone 0843 453 9000 or, alternatively, visit www.brandshatch.co.uk.

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